



Unmasked, Klan plans are kanned

By Gloria Dulan-Wilson

NEW YORK — More than 6,000 anti-klan protesters turned out Saturday, outnumbering the paltry 16 klan members who showed up for a rally that fizzled when the Supreme Court handed down a decision against masked rallies.

The rally that "grand dragon" klan member James W. Sheely had threatened to have 400 or more members gathering to uphold "white power" was totally scuttled when they learned that their faces would be unmasked throughout the print media without their masks. Realizing their true identities would be revealed, the true color of the membership, who hide behind white hoods and masks, turned out to really be bright yellow.

The protesters, of virtually every nationality turned out to show their outrage and disdain for the racist cult that originated in the 19th century, perpetrating the reign of terror against blacks and Jews for over a century, primarily throughout the South. That such a spectre should raise itself in the streets of New York City at the dawning of the 21st century, was more than some could stand.

The 16 recruits were in danger of life as many anti-klan protesters broke through police barricades to punch, kick and spit on them.

Sheely dressed in green, symbol of the poisonous philosophy of the hate group had to be led off by police for his own protection, along with two women and 15 other men — one dressed in purple and black, was purported to be the grand vizier.

Sheely was cut in the face and the others sustained minor injuries. The police had all they could do to keep the protesters from rioting, with clashes happening around the circle, as they chanted "death to the klan" and "down with the KKK!"

What outraged the black protesters even more was a recent televised press conference during which Elmer Tatum, of the Amsterdam News and a member of the ACLU stated their support for the klan's right to hold their rally. Considering they and other political figures were not forthcoming when Khalid Muhammad had to go to court to get the right to hold the Million Youth March in September, but instead characterized their rally as a hate group unwelcome in Harlem, as opposed to a freedom of speech issue. One protester Carl Robinson, in making the observation, stated "Black leadership needs to get its act together. How can they stand up for the rights of the klan and not for the rights of their own people? Khalid never burned a cross in anyone's yard, hung anybody or castrated anybody, but they denounced him, there's the klan and they stand up for their constitutional rights. I don't play that. I think we need to take a look at who we're following — we're the real enemy is." Others agreed.

The banner, a confederate flag with the stars and stripes on it was snatched out of their hands and trampled by a group of protesters. With the crowd growing more and more unruly, the 16 klan members were spirited off through a back entrance in City Hall. But the crowd continued chanting "down with the klan, down with the police, down with Clinton." A few klan supporters interspersed throughout the crowd defended their right to speech and free assembly. One white woman who yelled loudly, "This is America. Free speech never hurt anyone," was threatened by two black women onlookers. Another onlooker, white, stated, "I don't see how the klan members were the browed. The klan was dispersed around 3:00 p.m."

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

ORANGE — The one thing you can count on in life is change. And this is where the People's Organization For Progress (POP) comes into the picture. It's about change.

Changing the way in which police brutality has been allowed to exist, thrive and flourish in today's society, like undetected cancer. It's about changing the business as usual thinking of some who think it was okay for 27-year-old Earl Faison to die for no apparent reason — mistaken identity in the murder of Orange police officer Joyce Carnegie — not good enough. It's about changing the way officers of the law and the jury are out to lunch when it comes to due process — dismissing the lives of black people. "NO JUSTICE, NO SLEEP!"

POP staged an all night vigil on October 22, in Orange in observance of The National Day Against Police Brutality and to keep the spotlight on the ruthless murder of Faison, on April 11, allegedly by Orange police officers. It has surfaced that an Orange police officer recanted his original statement, and gave new testimony describing how officers, robbed, beat, and pepper sprayed Faison, while handcuffed moments before he died. In light of Faison's death, Orange Police Director Richard Conte announced his retirement on October 20. The grand jury has yet to render a verdict in the case.

And until it does, Larry Hamm chairman of POP will continue to spearhead a coalition of organizations to fight a relentless battle against police brutality.

"We're trying to prepare for whatever the verdict the grand jury is going to render," said

'No Justice, No Sleep'



Protesters organized by People's Organization for Progress gain momentum as they make their way to Orange police headquarters for the overnight vigil.

Photo by William Frazier

Hamm. "We're contemplating various decisions and action according to the verdict."

The Black Ministers Council of New Jersey stands alongside POP in its effort to receive justice. Rev. Reginald T. Jackson issued a statement on the matter a few days prior to the vigil: "The Black Ministers Council of New Jersey calls and demands that a thorough investigation of the tragic death of Earl Faison, while in the custody of the Orange Police Department be completed and full public disclosure be made. In short let the chair fall where they may. It is imperative that law enforcement be held to the same standard and accountability as all other citizens. Nothing less is acceptable."

Meanwhile, POP marches. "NO JUSTICE NO SLEEP." Approximately 100 people banded together and marched to

the scene of the crime — Orange police headquarters — arriving approximately at 6:30 p.m. Once there, the decade old offensive

'It is imperative that law enforcement be held to the same standard and accountability as all other citizens. Nothing less is acceptable.'

— Black Ministers Council Executive Director
Rev. Reginald Jackson

line of POP proved its unwavering strength. If the officers inside thought the cold rain would dampen the spirit of the marchers, they were soon fooled.

"It was very moving because they thought we were going to go away because it started to rain," said William Frazier who was one of the core of 25 people who stayed all night. "It was as if we were holding the police hostage in their own workplace. Friday night which is a busy night for police... there were no incidents that night where people were carried into jail."

Hamm said, "It was one of the best actions we've had. At one point it was raining so hard that I thought we should take a break. Some sat in their cars and dried off. And we continued in shifts."

see No Justice, page B1

Beauty behind bars

Women prisoners seek to maintain their dignity



Some of the female inmates strike a pose after receiving makeovers. Left to right, Lisa Stevens, Dwanna Williams, Pamela Morris, supervisor of social services; Vanessa Hicks, celebrity makeup artist Tanika Riley; Carmelia Liket.

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

KEARNY — There are working women, stay-at-home moms, and an increasing number of incarcerated women detained at Hudson County Correctional facility in Kearny. Their days are mundane, nothing outside of the norm — the bone chilling sound of doors slamming — locked shut.

Cold and isolated hallways, barren walls devoid of beauty. A dismal scene. This all changed on October 21, when celebrity makeup artist and motivational speaker, Tanika Riley gave 20 of the women something to feel good about — themselves, despite their bleak surroundings. An unusual setting, prison, when you consider mothers and women.

Riley, a Jersey City Native is an upward mobile product of public housing, an entrepreneur and business woman and a person who is committed to giving back to the community. She works with Oprah Winfrey's "Angel Network" and has worked with Essence magazine's beauty and cover editor Mikki Taylor, as a makeup artist on special events. However, on this day she

served as a reminder to these women of all the endless possibilities.

"This is called 'Face 2 Face with Tanika Riley,' and I'm here to make your day. We don't care who you're here, we just want you to smile," said the effervescent Riley accompanied by professional hair stylist, Michael Reeves.

see Beauty, page B1

Bradley has a plan for working families



Bill Bradley

PETERBOROUGH, N.H. — Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley recently unveiled his proposals on work and families in a speech to students, parents and teachers at Contocook Valley High School.

"Working families are under an increasing amount of stress," he said. "Working parents — mothers, in particular — are increasingly pushed and pulled in different directions and are forced to make hard, unenviable choices between work and family."

His proposals build on his comprehensive health care proposal:

"Creation of an Early Care and Education (ECE) partnership program, providing pre-school children of working parents with the care and education they need in their most formative years. This would build upon North Carolina's 'Smart Start' initiative and provide \$2 billion per year to states for early care and education. Public-private partnerships would identify the needs specific to individual counties and operate local-determined initiatives."

"Creation of a Senior Volunteer Program to provide greater contact for children with caring adults, particularly after school. This would match America's next generation with its 'greatest generation' in the hours before working parents return home. This builds upon the 'Experience Corps' program, and would provide tax-free stipends of up to \$200 per month to seniors who volunteer at least 15 hours a week in an approved program. Activities including include mentorship and tutoring would be encouraged."

'I believe the prosperity that fails to bolster families is a hollow and unsustainable one.'

— Bill Bradley

ducted through after-school programs and institutions such as Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCAs.

"Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover more than 10 million employees of companies with 25 or more employees. It currently applies to companies with 50 or more employees. Bradley would provide 24 more hours of unpaid leave for non-emergency family needs like parent-teacher conferences. Unlike the current FMLA, this could be used in short or long increments."

"Investment in community colleges to help working adults progress in current jobs or better ones. Bradley's proposal would provide \$2 billion over five years to community colleges in competitive grants. They should a) improve technical equipment; b) build alliances with the private sector, high schools and universities, letting students enter college from high school and exit to a job that uses their new skills and training; and c) be flexible to address barriers to participation, including on-site child care for those who need it, and class schedules appropriate for a working adult's schedule."

"The prosperity that fails to bolster families is a hollow and unsustainable one," Bradley said.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

NEWARK — The Newark Museum hosts an exhibit of Twentieth Century Part II. 12 p.m. (973) 596-6550.

NEWARK — The WISE Women's Center of Essex County College is sponsoring a workshop to teach participants to make career choices and find, get, and keep jobs. 9:30 a.m. (973) 877-3527.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society hosts a discussion with candy maker and businessman Jonathon Damico. 12:15 p.m. (973) 596-6500.

NEWARK — The top restaurants in the Newark area come out show off their stuff to the community in the Second Annual "A Taste Of Newark" at the Gateway Newark Hilton. 6 p.m. (973) 642-5343.

HAMPTON — The Hurdston Hills Playhouse presents a holiday musical "A Christmas Musical 1999." Call (908) 736-9007 for information.

NUTLEY — The Essex County Clerks Office hosts a outreach meeting at the Nutley Parks & Recreation Center. 8:30 a.m. (973) 621-4221.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a free public seminar dealing with special education at the New Jersey Law Center. 7 p.m. (732) 927-7518.

MONTCLAIR — The Essex County Clerks Office hosts a outreach meeting at the Montclair Municipal Building. 8:30 a.m. (973) 621-4221.

NEW YORK — Conjunction Arts, Inc. hosts an art exhibit on the affects and visuals of police violence at The Cathedral of St. John's Divine. 1:30 p.m. (718) 975-0373.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society hosts a discussion and exhibit on the music playing devices of yesterday and today. 1 p.m. (973) 596-6500.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University (NJCU) offers a course in CPR First Aid Certification. 9 a.m. (201) 200-3089.

SCOTTON PLAINS — The Union County Vocational-Technical Schools hosts its Eighth Annual Holiday Craft Fair at the Raritan Road Campus. 9:30 a.m. (908) 889-UCVT.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University (NJCU) presents agprano

singer Janette Goleme and pianist Justine Chelsky-Schulz. at the school's Jodels Recital Hall. 3 p.m. (201) 200-3151.

PARAMUS — The Department of Human Services Division of Veterans Services hosts a dedication ceremony of the Purple Heart Memorial Roadway. Call (201) 461-1776 for information.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University (NJCU) hosts its monthly lecture series on social and political topics with writer Andrew Sullivan at the school's Heptum Hall. 3 p.m. (201) 200-3426.

MORRISTOWN — The Delbaron Mothers' Guild hosts its annual fall dinner and fashion show at the Harner Marriott in Whippany. 6 p.m. (973) 226-0209.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

CRANFORD — Union County College offers a course in effective communications in business. Call (908) 705-7501 for information.

BLOOMFIELD — Newark Councilman Cory Booker will take part in Bloomfield College's in remembering the Nazi Holocaust at the school's Robert V. Van Fossan Theater. 2:30 p.m. (973) 748-9000.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a free seminar on small claims court at the New Jersey Law Center. 7 p.m. 1-800-FREE-LAW.

HACKENSACK — The Department of Human Services Division of Veterans Services hosts a birthday party for the 224 Marine Corps. Call (201) 461-1776 for information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

HACKENSACK — The Department of Human Services Division of Veterans Services honors all who served in the U.S. Military with the sirens. 11 a.m. (201) 461-1776.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

CRANFORD — Union County College hosts an exhibit on teenage culture entitled "Teen Angst, Love, Hate, and Other Things." 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. (908) 703-7155.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

CRANFORD — The Theater Project of Union County hosts a Cabaret at the school's Commons building. 8 p.m. (908) 655-6183.

First Union offers a grant for affordable homes



TRENTON — First Union National Foundation's board of directors recently awarded a \$450,000 grant to the Affordable Housing Network of New Jersey to develop viable, resident-driven community revitalization plans in several low-income neighborhoods throughout the state. Pictured here are (l-r): Bob Reid, president of First Union-Atlantic; Dennis Brunn, Affordable Housing Network of NJ; Steve Mack, Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County board member and Barbara Aaronoff, Executive Director of Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County.

Afolabi is "Employee of the Month" for October

NEWARK — Ade Afolabi was recently honored as employee of the month for October by the City of Newark. Afolabi works for the City Planning Office, department of Land Use Control and the department of Development. Afolabi originally came from Ibadan, Nigeria. He attended New York Institute of Technology and Alabama A&M University, where he graduated with honors. He holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning and is an active member of the American Planning Association (New Jersey and National Chapter). The love for progress in the City of Newark and his dedication for honesty and integrity has been the most important factors in working with the City of Newark. He has provided a great deal of the professional and technical expertise necessary for the exiting Renaissance that is currently underway in the great city of Newark.



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PBS program tackles the issue of child abuse



TRENTON — In a recent "Caucus: New Jersey" special presentation entitled "Protecting Our Children," Emmy Award-winning anchor Steve Aduabo (left) looks at efforts to combat and treat child abuse in the Garden State. Joining the panel discussion is Dr. Patricia Morgan-Clayton, a Jersey City resident and pediatrician who works with the Abuse Management Program at Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Hospital. In 1996, more than 37,000 allegations of abuse were referred to the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family (DYFS), 30 percent of the cases were substantiated.

Newark opens community development center



NEWARK — During the recent Grand Opening of the Newark Enterprise Community Resource Development Center (NECDC) at the United Way of Essex and West Hudson counties in Newark, Mayor Sharpe James (far right) is joined by (l-r) International Youth Organization, Inc. (IYO) founder and president James Wallace; Municipal Council member Luis Quintana; Newark Business Administration JoAnne Watson and Maria Vizcarra; Do Solo, president and CEO of the United Way of Essex and West Hudson Counties. The NECDC initiative was developed by the Enterprise Community Social Service Task Force at the request of neighborhood organization and residents to assist in the development of funds and resources to meet the social, civic and job training needs of Newark's Enterprise Community residents.

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NATIONAL BRIEF

BLACK AND HISPANIC LEADERS DENOUNCE MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS PLAN

(NNPA) — A group of prominent Hispanic and Black leaders have joined forces to denounce a proposal by the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) to loosen rules defining minority-owned businesses by lowering the 51 percent ownership threshold as necessary for an enterprise to qualify as a minority-owned firm. The "Growth Initiative for Minority Business" was approved by the NMSDC executive committee. The goal of the plan is to provide growth opportunities for minority businesses, but Black and Hispanic leaders strongly feel it has the potential of becoming a de facto national policy which could change the distinction between truly minority-owned companies and minority-managed companies. Among those opposed to the plan are: The Hon. Bill Carroll, Mayor of Atlanta; Congressman James Clyburn of the Congressional Black Caucus; John J. Oliver Jr., president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association; Hugh Price, president and CEO of the National Urban League; Kwesi Murren, president and CEO of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

BORDER BETWEEN SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA RE-OPENED

FREETOWN (IPS) — After 10 months of closure, the common border between Liberia and Sierra Leone, which had served as a major conduit for instability in the sub-region, has been reopened. The ceremony took place earlier this month, following presentations made by government officials, diplomats and United Nations officials, and the signing of a peace deal on July 7. According to the Sierra Leonean government and rebel forces, Foday Sankoh of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and Major Paul Koroma of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) called for the re-opening during a meeting with Pres. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Both rebel leaders argued that the reopening of the border was necessary in the spirit of peace and economic regeneration. While some citizens are leery of the move, businesspersons have welcomed it, saying the way is now open for commerce to flourish.

BENIN TO RESUME OIL PRODUCTION

COTONOU (IPS) — The West African state of Benin has just concluded a joint contract to resume oil production after nearly a year's hiatus. The \$44.5 million contract was signed with the multi-national Zetah Oil Company, based in Cote d'Ivoire. It is estimated that approximately 22 million barrels worth of oil remain hidden underground in Seme, a region in southwest Benin. The Seme installation, Benin's sole oil field, was shut down in December 1996 after 16 years of unprofitable operations. While officials in Benin were looking for funds to dismantle the dispirited Seme fields and to rehabilitate the environment, Zetah made known its interest in the remaining oil deposits. The 25-year contract, signed with Zetah, seems to be a last-ditch effort to salvage Benin's offshore oil operation. Zetah, with oil interests in Republic of Congo and Gabon, will provide the \$44.5 million necessary to rehabilitate the Seme installation.

Radio jock's campaign aimed at CompUSA ends on promising note

CEO pledges to do more minority advertising

By LaWanza Spears
NNPA Senior Editor



Disc Jockey Tom "The Fly Jock" Joyner gets it on with CompUSA alleging discrimination. The letter turned out to be a hoax. The Joyner/CompUSA arrangement ended on-air rumors that syndicator ABC Radio Network would pull the plug on the popular morning drive-time show. And, it comes in the wake of increased Black media scrutiny of major corporations' lack of advertising in minority media. The Tom Joyner Morning Show has been using its airwaves to champion the causes of civil rights since its national debut in 1994. And, Smiley has been providing criti-

cal analysis on the show since 1996. Together they have held several on-air protests and campaigns against advertising agencies who neglect minority markets.

The Joyner Show, which is aired in over 90 cities with an estimated five million listeners, is also responsible for fund-raising for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. While the CompUSA controversy has ended on a promising note, the recognition of race and ethnicity in advertising has attracted the attention of Capitol Hill. In her "Minorities in Advertising Issue Summary" for the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Kilpatrick stated that while the "spending power of African-American, Hispanic and Asian consumers in the U.S. approaches \$1 trillion — less than \$1 billion in advertising dollars — less than one percent of the total ad spending in excess of \$160 billion — is being spent to directly address the ethnic markets that account for almost 30 percent of our population."

Who is fighting who in Burundi?

By Chris Simpson

BUJUMBURA (IPS) — As news broke in Bujumbura of the attack on the UN delegation at Rutana and the killing of two relief officials, the government denounced the killers in Rutana as "genocidal terrorists." There are no clear leads on which Burundian rebel organization may have been responsible for the incident. Both the government and the UN are conducting their own inquiries but with little hope of finding hard evidence. One of the main rebel movements, the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD), has already accused the government of setting up the Rutana killings.

While Rutana lies in the south-east of Burundi, most of the violence of the past few months has been focused on the western province of Bujumbura Rurale. From June onwards, there has been a steady escalation of ambushes and attacks. The Burundian government is adamant that much of the new rebel activity is being coordinated by Rwandan nationals, with

militia fighters from the Interahamwe and soldiers from the former Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) arriving from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). According to government military spokesman, a long-standing informal alliance between the Interahamwe and their Burundian counterparts, is now being strengthened as both groups face being neutralized or marginalized into the DRC.

The FDD and Interahamwe-FAR are both defined as "negative forces" under the Lusaka agreement brokered by Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, with the UN mandated to supervise their disarmament and surrender.

The rebels' military campaign inside Burundi has been complemented by a baffling series of spats and personality attacks outside the country, with endless rumors of new, sometimes implausible alliances being forged and broken. Clashes in the past between Palipehutu and FDD fighters in the northwestern region of Cibitoke are reported to have cost hundreds of lives.

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Oh happy day!

Knowing you made a difference in one somebody's life is a rewarding experience. This might sound crazy but it's better than money. Recently, I had the pleasure to interact with women many of whom were mothers locked in prison. It truly will go down as one of the best days in my life. The low life, the untouchables, the outcasts of society. I'm sure we've all thought at some point in time this way about those detained behind bars. But the remarkable thing I discovered...they're people too, with feelings, emotions, dreams, experiences and high expectations. It's just at some point in their life they made bad decisions. Haven't we all made bad decisions? Maybe not that led us to prison, but nevertheless, mistakes. And yes, maybe some of these women deserve to be where they are, but should they be treated with total disregard. True, if I were one of their victims would I feel this way? Maybe not. But forgiveness goes a long way. And when we forget the very nature of what it means to be a human — to show compassion life can have a way of going away. "Two wrongs don't make a right," is what my grandmother used to say. And she was right. Just because these women, many of whom have wronged themselves, while some have victimized others, should we not embrace, nurture, care and extend openly of ourselves — do something to make them feel human again!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Recently there has been a lot of talk about what is going on in the Elizabeth School District. On September 11, 1999 the Elizabeth Board of Education held a regular scheduled meeting in the midst of one of the worst weather conditions to hit this state in years. In light of the governor's declaring a state of emergency and closing all schools, the Elizabeth Board of Education totally disregarded the weather conditions. When asked why the meeting was held under such terrible conditions the Superintendent explained that there were several persons who had appointments that had to be made and could not be delayed. However, when one perused through the agenda and the different resolutions, you would be surprised to find that most of the appointments on the agenda were retroactive to July-August 1999.

Over the years, the Board and the Superintendent have become increasingly insensitive and unresponsive to the public input at Board meetings. Like most Elizabethans,

I, too, was very dismayed with the speed at which the Elizabeth High School Principal was appointed. This led me to try and identify why the process was so fast and so clear. As a result, I was fortunate to receive copies of all 13 applicants' resumes and reviewed them. To my surprise the individual selected did not have a doctoral degree or pursue doctoral course, had not principal or vice principal experience and no direct experience in school administration. Admittedly, the pool of candidates was the best there is, but there were a few very strong candidate whose qualifications and experience clearly surpassed the candidate selected. Every area except his years of experience in the district. As a society we desire preferential treatment when it is based upon money, race and at the same time we seem to embrace it when it is based on one political affiliation or connection.

Sincerely,
Tony Lewis, President, Elizabeth NAACP

White supremacy is destroying Tennessee State University

(NNPA) — For some people, quality in higher education means White supremacy. It is the most common position at all colleges and universities. These positions include the college or university president, vice president for academic affairs, deans of academic units, heads/chairs of academic units, and faculty.

The fact that Whites occupy most of these positions is consistent with the position of White superiority and Black inferiority. It is not surprising that 99 (ninety-nine) of these positions at Tennessee colleges and universities are held by Whites, a fact that is acceptable merely because it is consistent with the notion of White superiority.

But if one of these universities is predominantly African-American, with only 51 (fifty-one) percent of these positions being held by African-Americans, this is not acceptable, and the judge (Wiseman) initiates all types of discrimination to make the university predominantly White in order to achieve "quality." A predominantly African-American University is not "quality" because of its racial make up.

However, these universities are a visible and pose a direct challenge to the notion of White superiority. If White students attend them, these White students will acquire experiences that will demonstrate that African-American students are not racially inferior. Whites. The positive experiences of Whites students may kill the notion

of White superiority.

Therefore, the leaders of Whites and Blacks have decided to do anything to eliminate or curb the presence of African-Americans at Tennessee State University before large numbers of Whites start to attend. Currently, it appears that the newspaper, other media and White leaders, are urging Whites to go anywhere, but Tennessee State University. Their code word is, stated directly or indirectly, quality education. Black and White clerics must change the thinking, attitude and/or behavior of any White leader by educating them that it is morally wrong, unjust, and promotes white supremacy to change the racial make up of T.S.U. just because it is predominantly African-American.

Tennessee State University will be destroyed in terms of its history, black employees and the role it could play in terms of reducing racism in Middle Tennessee and Tennessee in general, while promoting quality education to all citizens. Furthermore, White and Black students graduating from T.S.U. will know how to positively interact with the diverse business community coming into the state.

If Nashville and Middle Tennessee become known as the non-violent white supremacy capital of America, this will make it hard to recruit business, national conventions, and conferences. If there is a hope for America, white people must stop practicing White superiority in education and economics.

NNPA provided this column

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By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge was as good as his word. He repeatedly said that the moment that Mumia Abu-Jamal exhausted his last legal appeal, he would set an execution date. When the Supreme Court recently turned down Mumia's appeal, Ridge set Dec. 2 as the date of Mumia's execution.

Ridge's decision will almost certainly touch off a national furor. And it should touch off a national debate over the death penalty. But probably the most serious danger is that it will throw up more obstacles for Mumia and his penalty opponents. One is publicly stated: the fear of crime. The media and politicians are to blame for this one.

From the late 1960s on, the media has gorged the public on movie doses of gory crime and violence stories. Politicians have exploited crime as a perennial crowd pleaser and vote getter. Even though the murder rate in America is at near record low (Americans were more likely to be murdered during the Great Depression of the 1930s), a scared public still demands the speedy dispatch of violent criminals. When recent crime figures were released that showed that violent crime rates continue to plummet, President Clinton still urged Americans to be "cautious." Some argue that crime rates have dropped because of the death penalty and tougher crime measures.

Yet, the downward trend in murder and major crime happened before the big escalation in the number of persons executed in the late 1980's. The other reason for the death penalty ban is privately whispered: race and class. More than 45 percent of those currently sitting on the nation's death rows are Black or Latino. They are almost always the poorest of the poor, and the least likely to have the resources to get top-flight legal representation. Mumia is a near

textbook example of this. He is Black, and before his case drew national and international attention, he had not even the financial means to bankroll a costly legal defense to win an acquittal or to overturn his conviction. Also, in the public's legal rush to condemn, many of those executed have been either mentally incompetent, juvenile delinquents or the innocent.

According to a Congressional subcommittee report, 48 innocent persons have been executed during the past two decades. This may be a gross underestimate. In Illinois, alone, 10

This monumental flaw in the administration of the death penalty prompted the American Bar Association to call for a complete moratorium on executions.

death row inmates have been freed because of doubts about their guilt since the death penalty was reinstated in 1977.

Unfortunately, the moral and legal arguments against the death penalty have fallen on the deaf ears of the public mainly because of the perpetuation of two myths: (1) The death penalty is a deterrent, and (2) It's cost effective. The death penalty doesn't deter crime. Eighteen of the twenty states with the highest murder rates are death penalty states. The list includes California and Texas which have the highest number of prisoners on death row. Seventeen of 20 major cities with the highest murder rates are death penalty states. The murder rates in Michigan and Indiana are nearly identical even though Indiana has the death

penalty and Michigan doesn't.

Despite falling murder rates, there are 20,000 or more homicides in America yearly. Yet, only one of 600 murderers receives the death penalty. If they are poor, minority, and live in the South and their victim is White, and middle-class, they almost certainly will be a prime candidate for execution. "The death penalty is not cost effective. Taxpayers pay dearly for special trials to prosecute death penalty cases, extra jury selection, special motions, a second penalty phase, lengthy investigations, and a battery of witnesses.

The state and costs pile even higher in capital cases because prosecutors and judges try to be legally correct and avoid reversal (many are anyway) and the states allocate paltry sums for special trials to prosecute death. It costs three times more to execute a prisoner than to lock him/her up for life. Florida spends \$3 million per execution, North Carolina and Texas over \$2 million. The estimate is that California would save nearly \$100 million annually by re-sentencing its nearly 600 death row inmates to life imprisonment, and making them pay the families of the victims their earnings for their prison labor. Worse, the death penalty wastes scarce funds on public defenders and squanders resources that should be spent on alcohol and drug treatment, counseling, education, job and skills training programs. These far more cost-effective and humane deterrents to protecting lives than taking them in an execution chambers each month.

Governor Ridge has his way, one of those will be Mumia.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a nationally syndicated columnist and the director of the National Alliance for Positive Action.

Youth and Depression I'm hooked on the Internet and you should be too

By Gerda Williams, MSN ARNP

Youthful years are supposed to be a time of carefree living. However, many youth find themselves feeling isolated, detached and lonely. Many lack self-esteem, use drugs and/or alcohol in attempts to cope, and/or contemplate or attempt suicide. Although there are many mental health issues related to the teen years, depression alone is serious, and is more common among adolescents than previously believed.

It is well known that teens with depressive illness who do not receive help often turn to suicide as the only way out. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death among those 15-24 years old. Every day in the U.S. nearly 100 teenagers attempt suicide. Approximately 35 actually do. Females attempt suicide three times more than males. There are no accurate estimates of the countless number of depressed people who struggle to exist from day to the next, in emotional pain and despair.

This group of silent sufferers are victims of the rampant misperception and unhealthy attitudes toward mental health in general, and an almost complete failure to recognize health issues in children. Most adults tend to minimize sadness in youth in the belief that depression does not affect the teen age group. They have a tendency to be saddened or worried about it. It is important to recognize that depression is an illness, not a disorder, and it needs attention. It must be diagnosed and treated. Adolescents with depressive illness feel sad and sullen and often view their situation as hopeless.

This sadness is not usually relieved by interaction with family members or friends, extracurricular activities, or money. Too often, well meaning families can be seen - in an effortful yet futile ways - trying to make their teenagers love, use happy. This is not to say that there is not normal sadness among adolescents which can be relieved by family interaction and socialization; however there is a clear difference. The difference between "normal" adolescent sadness and depression is based on the severity, duration, and magnitude of change from the youth's usual behavior and personality.

There is a strong familial link in depressive disorder, and as a result of this, teenagers who have depressed parents, grandparents or other family members, will sometimes become depressed when under stress. Again, caution should be taken here, to not simply associate the teenager's depression with other family members (i.e. it runs in the family), thereby minimizing his/her symptoms, delaying treatment and inadvertently reinforcing the teenagers' feelings that nobody cares. There are certain events that increase the adolescent's risk for depression and suicide:

Loss of a parenting figure by death or separation. Loss of important peer relationships (i.e.: breakup with a boyfriend/girlfriend). Family violence/discipline. Physical or sexual abuse. Academic failure and/or failure at school. Alcohol/drug abuse (this is usually a symptom of a more enduring problem).

Depressed adolescents presents the same symptoms that are characteristic of adults, however due to their age, their symptoms are often viewed or expressed differently. Marked sadness may be expressed by wearing dark clothes, writing morbid poetry or school compositions or depicting a morbid interest in music with death themes. Sleep patterns may be reversed. Depressed teenagers may have a "doom" or "I'm a CONSISTENT basis. They watch TV or listen to music all night and sleep during the day, often having difficulty getting up for school. Depressed teen levels may be present, creating a lack of motivation, poor class attendance, and the "bored" or "checked out" attitude. They may total disinterest in almost everything. Poor concentration and slow thought patterns may manifest themselves as poor academic performance, irritability, fatigue and low tolerance for the slightest provocation.

Adolescent depression may also present itself in the form of behavior or conduct problems or substance use. There may be noticeable peer conflicts, frequent absences from school, and defiance toward adults and authority. Increased risk-taking behaviors and/or social withdrawal may be present. Loss of appetite can occur and may be expressed in the form of eating disorders such as anorexia or bulimia. Numerous complaints of unfounded physical problems are common. Response to teenage depression must be swift and should begin with adult interest and involvement.

Adults who have daily contact with adolescents, must LISTEN to them. Special effort should be made to show genuine interest and to validate the teenager's feelings and problems without patronizing. Adults should convey caring and understanding to teenagers without minimizing or trivializing their problems. In communication with a teen, adults must stay focused on one problem at hand, and should not rush to take away their pain with promises of future success in school, work or interpersonal relationships. Remember that adults don't need to have all the answers.

It is important to recognize when professional help is needed. Attempts to "help" should first be discussed with the teenager.

It is vital for a teen to be as comfortable as possible with a mental health provider in order to achieve the best progress.

Gerda Williams, MSN, ARNP is a psychiatric nurse practitioner in private practice in Miramar, Fla.

By Yolanda Young

Every morning at approximately 5:30 a.m. I sit down at my desk with a cup of herbal apple cinnamon tea and boot up my Toshiba Satellite laptop computer. I log in to AOL and use America's On Line (AOL) and enter the world of cyberspace. In an instant the whole world is at my fingertips.

By 6:15 a.m. I have skimmed four newspapers: the Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, Newsweek, and USA Today. When I'm finished, I feel I have a grasp of what happened with the world while I peacefully slept. You'd think that I'd be done, but really I'm just getting started. I log in to Salon1999.com for the latest in city talk, review the sports scores on ESPN.com, and check my e-mail. E-mail is the best thing since call waiting. I keep in better touch with my friends scattered across the country in places like Seattle and Atlanta than I do with the ones near by Tacoma Park, MD.

I don't think the Internet is as available in other countries because once my friends move to places like Nigeria and South Africa in South America they don't e-mail as much. Don't you dare stop reading this because you have no interest in learning to use the Internet or logging on to the Internet. As my Big Momma would say, "You should be ashamed of yourself!"

I don't even want to hear the excuse that computers are too expensive. They cost less than most big screen TVs and stereo sets. And, if you still can't afford it, there is free computer and Internet access at your local library. Using the Internet is like brushing your teeth. It's not a particularly pleasant experience at first, but after some searching you find the perfect brand of toothpaste and a toothbrush that provides just the right amount of titillating gum massaging.

Eventually, you find yourself brushing two or three times a day. That's what it was like for me the first few times I logged on. I didn't find anything I wanted, but once I got to it, the web became

my new best friend. Before long I was teaching myself to play chess and making ginger catfish from scratch. I got the best of the net. I even know someone who's getting a master's degree through a college Internet link. One of my best friends has even gotten a job through an Internet dating service. She has two eyes and everything. The Internet is great for almost everything.

If I want to lose three pounds in as many days, I just plug in "crash diets" and up pops 100 choices. I'm a road warrior who travels for a living. I recently crossed the last barrier to my virtual globe and thanks to yahoo.maps.com, I don't have to. I just plug in my address and that of my destination and the map pop up like magic. I refuse to pay more than \$250 for a plane ticket to get anywhere in the continental U.S., so I am constantly scouring the travel pages for a bargain. I recently crossed the last barrier to my virtual globe and thanks to yahoo.maps.com, I don't have to. I just plug in my address and that of my destination and the map pop up like magic. I refuse to pay more than \$250 for a plane ticket to get anywhere in the continental U.S., so I am constantly scouring the travel pages for a bargain. I recently crossed the last barrier to my virtual globe and thanks to yahoo.maps.com, I don't have to. 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RELIGION CALENDAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

NEWARK — Bethany Baptist Church hosts a kick-off prayer service. 7:30 p.m. (973) 623-8181

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

NEWARK — Bethany Baptist Church hosts youth leadership service. 6 p.m. (973) 623-8181

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

NEWARK — Bethany Baptist Church hosts a special "First Saturday Prayer Service" featuring the Royal Ten Cents. 6 p.m. (973) 623-8181

BELLEVIEW — Christ Episcopal Church hosts a rummage sale. Call (973) 751-0616 for information

POSITIVELY BLACK

Who are you?

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"Who am I? The answer depends in large part on who the world around me says I am. Who do my parents say I am? Who do my peers say I am? What messages are reflected back to me in the face and voices of my teachers, my neighbors, store clerks? What do I learn from the media about myself? How or how I represented in the cultural images around me? Or am I missing from the picture altogether? From Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria?" by Beverly Daniel Tatum Ph.D.

One's sense of identity is crucial in determining how well one navigates the social environment or she finds him or herself in. One's identity encompasses many things. It is not static or one-dimensional.

It is an ongoing process of new discovery, formulation, reinforcement and reaffirmation of old concepts. A person sees him or herself not only through his or her own eyes but through the reflection of the cultural environment. The construction of self-identity begins very early. Some say in the mother's womb. The baby is nourished or damaged by what he or she feels from the mother directly, but also by her thoughts, feelings and emotional environment. Once the baby is born, he or she picks up more emotional vibrations and stimuli from the immediate environment.

Self-image and identity has been shaped unbeknownst to you by the voice infections, looks, responses and actions of others. While each of us is an individual being with powers of cognition, thought, imagination, emotion and emotion, we are susceptible to the influences of our immediate surroundings. What did our surroundings say about you as a child? Were they affirming, comfortable, shabby or impoverished? What sense of yourself did you receive from your parents, family members, peers, the outside world or the media? Did your parents convey to you that you were loved, lovable and lovely? When your parents spoke to you was it in endearing terms or was it harsh and disrespectful?

More importantly, we must learn to think and empower ourselves with affirming and enabling terms and images. We must demonstrate ourselves, group solidarity, cohesion and empowerment. We must teach the importance of introspection, self-definition and improvement. And, we must create an environment and community that encourages uniqueness, self-respect, success and positive contributions to one's own ethnic community.

Thinking About Adoption?



SPENCE & CHAPMAN
Information Meeting
Wed. Nov. 10, 6:00 p.m.

Montclair Public Library
50 So. Fullerton Ave.

Call S. Walker at 973-295-1212. Most adoptive African-American infants. Adoption program in the Northeast.

Religion

Newark church celebrates 150 years of service to the community

NEWARK — The House of Prayer, one of the most historic Episcopal parishes in northern New Jersey, will celebrate its 150th anniversary this month. The Rev. Mildred J. Solomon, rector, announced that a festival Eucharist service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 13, at noon in the old brownstone church at Broad and State streets. Bishop Coadjutor John Cronberger, who becomes head of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark next February, will preside at the service. It will be followed by a reception at Cathedral House (24 E. 24th St.).

"We hope many will join in celebrating 150 years of Christian witness in the city," declared the rector.

The House of Prayer is the 15th oldest of the 127 congregations within the Diocese of Newark, which covers the northern half of the state. During its long history the parish has been a pioneer in worship, music, community service, social actions and even technology.

The parish was organized in the late 1840s to serve residents of the northern sections of Newark. The first service, on Nov. 7, 1849, was conducted in the Plume house, an early 18th century dwelling that later became the home of most of the church's rectors.

The third Episcopal parish in Newark, the House of Prayer was incorporated on Nov. 24, 1849. Just four days later construction began on the present church, next to the house. Designed to resemble an English country house, the House of Prayer was completed in just a year, and consecrated on Nov. 26, 1850. Since then it has undergone few exterior alterations.

Both the church and the rectory are on the National and New



Rev. Mildred Solomon is the pastor at the House of Prayer Episcopal Church. She is the first African American to lead a congregation within the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

Jersey Registers of Historic Places. The church was designed by Frank Willis, a leader in the Gothic Revival movement in this country in the 19th century. The rather plain interior features an elaborate carved altar and mosaic screen from the 1890s, and a century-old pipe organ.

The Plume house was built by a wealthy family on the outskirts of the village of Newark in the early

1700s. George Washington and his army passed the house in their retreat across New Jersey in 1776. According to a legend from the American Revolution, Ann Van Wagoner Plume rented a Hessian soldier from the house when she found him chopping furniture for firewood.

In 1837 the rectory was the scene of a major scandal when the Rev. Hannibal Goodwin

developed flexible photographic film — a step that made motion pictures possible. Goodwin, rector for 20 years, wanted to make lantern slides for the candles broken by Sunday school children.

In an attic laboratory, he developed a method of putting photographic images on celluloid. Fourteen years after Goodwin's death in 1900, his patent for the film was upheld in a prolonged legal battle with Eastman Kodak Co.

The tradition of services continued through the 20th century, as the House of Prayer ran canisters for teenagers and after-school programs. The parish currently houses the Mustard Seed Child Development, a day care facility serving 45 pre-school children.

The styles of worship and music have evolved greatly as the congregation has changed. In the 19th century the House of Prayer was in the fore front of the Anglo-Catholic or "High Church" movement, and was one of the first of Newark parishes to use bells, incense candles, and vestments. In recent years services have become more casual and spontaneous. Every Sunday most members of the congregation join hands in a circle and offer intercessory prayers — sometimes in different languages.

The parish is one of only three Episcopal congregations in the United States called House of Prayer. The name is derived from a passage in the Book of Isaiah, in which God promises to give foreigners "joy in my house of prayer."

The scriptural prophecy concludes: "My temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations." Part of the statement is carved on the Board Street wall of the 150-year old church.

Special Feature

The Black Church: Who's running things?

By Richard M. Cooper

"To the white church: Much of the violence we are reaping in our cities today was sown during the era when the Black were enslaved. To understand racism and its effect upon our society, therefore, we must step back into the days when slavery was an American way of life. ... Racism is to modern times what slavery was to our forefathers; racism is the spirit behind slavery." (1993, Holy Bible, King James Version, Original African Heritage Edition, p. 85).

The historical role of the black church, as the premier institution in the fight for social justice for African Americans, is profound. This multi-racial, multi-cultural, and intergenerational human rights movement is a powerful accomplishment. Our African ancestors were often forced to accept a corrupted form of Christianity under the guise of "a religious conversion" for their salvation. What they were divinely inspired to create was a theology of liberation for themselves and a socially constructed philosophy for the eradication of the racist Hell that they experienced on earth. African freedom fighters like Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth utilized emancipatory hermeneutics to translate their understandings of the Bible into

their battle against white domination. Their use of the book of Exodus Chapter 19 in the Bible is a powerful example of this fact.

The contributions of black women have often been denied, downplayed and unrecognized in the black church's fight against oppression. Numerous black churches today espouse a patriarchal biblical interpretation that black women can not rise to the positions of minister, reverend or pastor. Many deaconess boards have less power than their male counterparts. In every instance, black women not only make up the overwhelming numerical majority in these congregations but more importantly, they are the financial, spiritual, and true work force of the church.

They are often the most devoted members of the church however one chooses to define "devoted." Also by and large, it is the Sisters whom mandate church attendance of their small children, teenagers, husbands and paramours. They tithe more frequently and are the financial underwriters of most of the church's programs.

It is common knowledge in the church that, "If there is a job that needs to be done, call on the sisters of the church."

Black women have shown an unbelievable amount of tolerance to the sexist and hegemonic structures that are still

present in the roles which black women really do play in the world, I will not join or rejoin any church which systematically mistreats women. The church must also make every effort to understand its young people, their Hip Hop cultures and their lifestyle lives. We must reach them not only by praying for them, but by talking with them and teaching them how to pray and what to pray for. Young people know corruption when they see it and the black church must not allow itself to be influenced by corrupt politics or lead by corrupt leaders. Black churches should reestablish their leadership role in social justice issues including taking a national position against so-called Welfare Reform. It is a direct assault on all female-headed households and poor households everywhere.

I pray, and I believe that the "Black church" is up to the task. God bless.

Richard M. Cooper is a motivational speaker, and is on the social work faculty of Widener University in Chester, Pa. He can be reached via e-mail at richard.cooper@widener.edu or at (610) 499-1134.

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Sacred connections: A new chapel for Bethany Baptist

NEWARK — On Tuesday, November 9, 1999 there will be a candlelight Dedication ceremony for the Rev. Dr. William Preston Hayes Memorial Chapel that abuts the newly expanded Bethany Baptist Church located at 275 West Market Street in Newark, New Jersey. This program will include the permanent installation and unveiling of a sacred art form known as the TRIMPTCH by the late artist, Don Miller. Mrs. Judy Miller and her widow and prominent educator will give a reflection of this special work and its significance at Bethany.

Rev. Hayes, a national leader and influential advocate for racial justice, was the minister of Bethany Baptist from 1882-1961. His community leadership was hailed in political and social welfare sectors. He was a champion of the poor and served many years as a commissioner on the Newark Housing Authority. He led the church in supporting a home for the colored aged in Montclair. He was an ardent supporter of the National Association of Colored People and the Urban League, as well as an ardent supporter of the colored "Y" in Newark.

Rev. Hayes was a preacher with great skill and depth and he was an advocate for economic development and mutual aid. His community leadership was the cause for greater opportunities in employment for the African Americans in both the public and private sectors. During his twenty nine years of distinguished tenure, three ministers were ordained: Reverends Norman Baptist Church, Charles C. Walker and Henry C. Gregory, III.

Rev. Hayes retired from Bethany Baptist Church as pastor in June 1961 and died in 1963 at the age of 82.

Archbishop Tutu cancer not spread

ATLANTA (AP) — Cancer detected in South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu has not spread beyond his prostate, doctors told the Nobel Prize winner on Tuesday. Archbishop Tutu's lymph nodes was taken out to determine if the cancer had spread. The procedure also helped doctors to determine if cancer surgery, which uses liquid nitrogen to freeze the cancer, should be effective in treating Tutu's prostate.

Urologist Harry Clarke of Emory University Hospital delivered the news to Tutu while Tutu rested at his Atlanta home. Clarke hopes to perform the cryosurgery within the next few weeks, Tutu spokesman John Allen said.

"This is a great relief for his family," Allen said. "They were obviously very worried at the possibility that the cancer may have spread."

Tutu was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997 and was treated for it. He learned earlier this month that the cancer had returned. Tutu is now a theology professor at Emory.

Local artists help abused women

Spice Design group cordially invites you to its first annual pre-benefit fundraiser "Rebuilding the Steps of our Sisters." This domestic awareness program will be held on Friday November 5, at North Stetson A.M.E. Church in Piscataway from 6-10 p.m.

The event will serve as a springboard for Project Protect to aid in helping women get on their feet. The funds raised will be donated to the program. Local artists at an upcoming fundraiser will donate their works to be auctioned off in an effort to continue to raise money for the program housed at the Elizabeth YWCA.

The keynote speaker at the event will be Rev. Iola E. Davis.

Prayer Warrior

An interview with God.

A new journalist decided to strike a high note.

"Come in," God said, "so you would like to interview Me?" He answered: "I heard and said, 'My time is called eternity and is enough to do everything; what questions do you have in mind to ask me?'"

"Note that are new to you. What's the one thing that surprises you most about mankind?"

He answered: "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again."

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to

restore their health.

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future.

That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived.

His hands took mine and we were silent. After a long period, I said, "May I ask you another question?"

He answered: "As a Father, what would you ask your children to do for the new year?"

To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved.

To learn that it takes years to build trust, and a few seconds to destroy it.

To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives.

To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. They will be losers who are better or worse than they are.

To learn that their religious beliefs are not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.

To learn that they should control their attitudes, otherwise their attitudes will control them.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in

persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them.

To learn to learn by practicing forgiveness.

To learn that there are persons who love them dearly, but who simply do not know how to show their feelings.

To learn that money can buy everything but happiness.

To learn that while at times they may be entitled to be upset, that does not give them the right to upset those around them.

This message was contributed by Laurent Technologies



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COMPANY**

invites you to attend the
Fifth Annual

**CITY NEWS
Most Influential
2000 Gala Event**

honoring individuals for their tireless efforts
in furthering the progress of black people in
New Jersey and rebuilding
New Jersey's urban communities

Thursday, April 27, 2000
New Jersey Performing Art Center

5:30 p.m. V.I.P. Reception 8:00 p.m. Program

RSVP by April 17, 2000

(973) 642-4400

Business/Evening Attire

Local Briefs

PSE&G issues slamming alert

NEWARK — Public Service Electric and Gas Company, New Jersey's largest electric and gas utility is receiving hundreds of calls from customers around the state who believe they may have been "slammed" or deceived into signing agreements switching their electricity suppliers by individuals falsely representing PSE&G.

Many of the customers, who are non-English-speaking and live in urban centers of the state, report being solicited door-to-door by persons wearing uniforms and claiming to be affiliated with PSE&G. The imposters ask to see copies of the customers' utility bills and persuade them to sign for a five percent rebate without telling them that, by doing so, they are actually authorizing a switch to a different electricity supplier. Customers are also being held that PSE&G is going out of business and that if they do not choose a new electricity supplier, one will be chosen for them by a third party.

A PSE&G spokesman emphasized that while employees visit customers' homes to respond to emergencies, repair appliances or read meters, under no circumstances do its employees solicit customers door-to-door to discuss switching energy suppliers. In fact, PSE&G is prohibited by regulation from doing so.

Mayor Sara Bost will not be moved, even after shooting

IRVINGTON — Sara B. Bost is a woman of defiant character and will not be shaken, not even when someone riddled her home with nine bullets recently at around 2:00 in the morning. Bost who is in her second term as the mayor of Irvington said, the shooting made her more angry than scared. According to the Democratic elected official, she suspects that the person responsible for the attack, which no one was harmed, came from a young man she approached who was painting graffiti on a shop sign near her home. The youth when spoken to by the mayor spat at her feet. Bost vows keep the pressure on and to step up crime fighting by adding more police to the force, although crime is down 10 percent.

The famous featured at annual NAACP Freedom Fund dinner



Left, Newark Mayor Sharpe James, with book, sits at piano with former Essex County Counsel Franklyn McQuade, left, and pianist/Newark Cultural Affairs Supervisor Gwen Moten at the Newark NAACP branch's annual Freedom Fund dinner. "When I Fall in Love" was the tune. At right, National Education Association Vice President Reg Weaver argues for stronger support of public school students — and against Republicans' "school voucher" proposals — during his keynote address. Listening are Newark NAACP President Daniel Williams and Nets General Manager Willis Reed.

Diversity the theme of Summit III

TRENTON — To continue its effort, Summit III-Diversity, being held on November 9, 1999, at the New Atlantic City Convention Center is expecting over 1200 participants. In addition, there will be 12 video conferencing sites throughout New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, providing viewership and participation to an additional 400 attendees.

The Summit's focus on diversity this year has taken it to the African Country of Ghana. The purpose was two fold. First, to capture on videotape, for inclusion into a television documentary — the fifth annual African-American Summit which was convened by the Honorable Rev. Leon Howard Sullivan and hosted by his Excellency Jerry

J. Rawlings, president of the Republic of Ghana. Secondly, to expand the participation in Summit III-Diversity, globally. As we continue to experience rapid community and economic change, not just in New Jersey but across America and throughout the world, we are becoming more focused on Diversity as a means to Empowerment.

Summit Topics:

•Community, Housing & Economic Development: with workshops on System Built/Modular Construction, Recycling Properties, Special Needs, Entrepreneurial Business Opportunities, Faith-Based Initiatives and your relationship with Energy and

Utility Companies

•Health: It will include workshops on AIDS Education, Immunization, Holistic Preventative Medical Practices and Organ and Tissue Donation.

•Civic Involvement: will include workshops on Education, Youth Participation and Consumer Awareness.

•Arts & Culture: will include workshops on Visual & Performing Arts Education and Appreciation.

•Special Interest Workshops: diversity practices in the Media and PBS's "Ready To Learn" Program.

The "Empowerment Summits" were two of many efforts over the last several years, to inform and empower community residents. Summit I (over

400 attended), held at the East Brunswick Hilton, in October 1997, and Summit II (714 attended), held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, September 1998, were designed as multicultural and ecumenical mass gatherings, addressing the needs of all, including African American, Hispanic, Asian, Portuguese and Native American. Reaching as well to the Christian, Islamic, Hindu, and Jewish neighborhoods and communities throughout New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

To register or for more information call 1-877-678-6648. There will also be bus transportation for those interested in attending. Telephone (973) 351-1648 for pick-up locations.

Bollwage trashes New York garbage plan

ELIZABETH — Mayor Chris Bollwage and the City Council have hired an environmental law firm to continue their efforts to stop New York City's plan to dump garbage in Elizabeth.

The law firm of DeCotis, Fitzpatrick and Gluck will work to protect the city's rights and ensure the city is compensated.

In addition, Bollwage announced plans for stepped-up enforcement measures and called on Gov. Christie Whitman to join the city's fight.

"I would like to make it very clear that I will work everything possible to stop this garbage from coming to our city," Bollwage said. The increased volume of truck traffic will have a tremendous negative impact on the roads and infrastructure, traffic control and air quality. That is why I am calling upon Governor Whitman and the State Legislature to join me in seeking an injunction against the plan."

Two weeks ago, New York City announced plans to ship 1,280 tons of garbage a day from Staten Island to transfer stations on Flara Street and South Front Street operated by Waste Management Inc.

While New York currently dumps its trash at the Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island, that aging disposal facility is due to close on Dec. 31, 2001. New York officials plan to use the Elizabeth site as one of its collection points for future transport to landfills in other states. Bollwage, who was first informed of New York's plans in a phone call from a reporter for The New York Times, immediately launched a campaign against what he called an "arrogant invasion" of Elizabeth's streets and neighborhoods.

"We are not putting all this planning, effort and resource into improving our environmental conditions only to sit back and allow another city to use us as their trash can," Bollwage said.



Jon Corzine with his campaign manager, Christy Davis, Esq. Ms. Davis is the first African-American woman to serve as campaign manager for a U.S. Senate candidate in New Jersey. Ms. Davis is a graduate of Rutgers Law School and served as State Director for Sen. Frank Lautenberg, as well as former Chief of Staff for the late Sen. Wynona Lipman.

"I BELIEVE IN COMMUNITY;

I DON'T ACCEPT THE DIVISIONS

BETWEEN URBAN AND SUBURBAN,

BLACK AND WHITE, LATINO AND ASIAN,

NORTH AND SOUTH, PH.D. AND

NO DEGREE. WE ARE ONE SOCIETY

AND WE HAVE TO ADVANCE TOGETHER."

Excerpt from Jon Corzine announcement to run for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, September 23, 1999

JON CORZINE

Democrat for U.S. Senate 2000

Because it's time to get BOLD THINGS done.

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The Rallying Point

The Orange community gathers to march on The National Day Against Police Brutality in support of police brutality victim Earl Faison

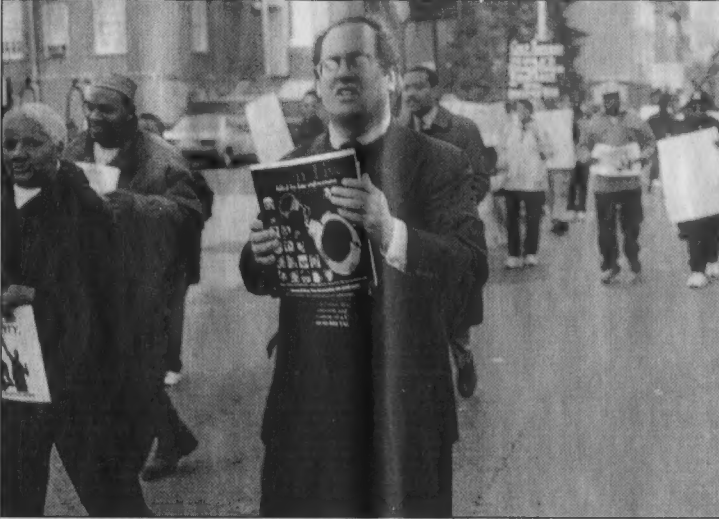
Justice

Continued from A1

Throughout the night various speakers were featured — Orange Councilman Donald Page addressed the crowd, and made a vow to Hamm that he would keep an eye on the investigation. Councilman Allen Barnhardt spoke as did attorney Anthony Max, Lisa Davis, and Morris Thomas the former president of the Orange branch of the NAACP. But it was the astounding voice of one Ras Baraka, son of Amina and Amiri Baraka, who poignantly conveyed for two hours the purpose of the gathering. He pointed to the different aspects of the Faison case which have come to light and the prevalent racism that exists within the criminal justice system.

"Ras Baraka's presentation was one of the finest examples of agitatorial oratory that I've ever witnessed," said Hamm, whose organization's commitment to enact change is vigilant. There are plans to stage a demonstration on Max Antoine's behalf on December 4, and a major one will take place in Orange on January 15, Martin Luther King's birthday.

As this war on police brutality continues, POP will remain steadfast in the forefront of bringing about a change—that's definite!



Left: A community activist holds a copy of the book, "Stolen Lives," the story of the victims who lives were cut short by police brutality. Over 2,000 cases are documented in the book.



Above: Larry Hamm (center) and the grandmother of Earl Faison (left) look on as Amina Baraka (right), wife of Amiri Baraka, speaks to those at the night vigil.



Demonstrators raise their fists in protest of the issue and support of the cause during the night vigil at the Orange Police Department.



Ras Baraka follows his mother's lead and shares some words with the participants.

"Ras Baraka's presentation was one of the finest examples of agitatorial oratory that I've ever witnessed."

— Larry Hamm, chairman of the People's Organization for Progress

Photos by William Frazier



Earl Faison's grandmother, Sagrah Williams, consults with Orange Councilman Donald Page and People's Organization for Progress chairman Larry Hamm during the rally.

A day of beauty goes a long way for the women inmates' self-esteem



Lisa Stevens before her makeover...



and after her makeover.

"The girls were overwhelmed with pride. They wanted to share with the other inmates about what not to do so they could participate."

— Pamela Morris, supervisor of social services at Hudson County Correctional Center.



Dwanna Williams sits back as Michael Reeves styles her hair during his visit with Tamika Riley at the Hudson County Correctional Center.



Jackie Betts (right) poses with Tamika Riley.

"Dear Miss Tamika Riley and Gilda Rogers, Thank the best of you deeply for one of the most special days at the Hudson County Correctional Center. Not in all my days would I have thought good things like the two of you would be allowed. Thanks for the makeover and the splendid hairdo. Everybody thought I looked wonderful. Thanks to the two of you. Hope to definitely meet you again."

Sincerely,
Vanessa Hicks

P.S. Don't forget to tell Oprah I said hi, and I'm still talking about you.



The ladies crowd around Tamika Riley to show off the results.

Beauty

continued from A1

"Are we gonna be on TV?" yelled out Lisa Stevens, a mother of three (Larry, Hope, Charley). Although Stevens didn't make it to the television screen, after a beautiful transformation she certainly qualified for the "prettiest mommy" title to go along with a million dollar smile. Stevens, who is not a first time offender vowed

upon her November 24 release that she will not be returning.

And this can be said for the other beauty makeovers — Dwanna Williams, 29, who expressed feeling like a lady. For 28-year-old Jackie Betts, the mother to a six-year-old son, this was the first time she'd ever had her hair and makeup professionally done. Tria, Walston, 29, who is expecting and the mother of five is facing a 10-year sentence. Carmella Liket, 26, who Riley dubbed Sharon

Stone after her blonde tresses were done is the mother of three. A mother of five which includes a set of twin girls, Vanessa Hicks, 38, questioned Riley about them being selected for the day's event because they were the ugly ones, was filled with spirit, after Riley quickly squashed that notion.

The pilot program, which kicked off last April was not by rave reviews from the inmates and favorably adopted by the administration of the facility.

"The girls were overwhelmed with pride. They wanted to share with the other inmates about what not to do so they could participate," said Pamela Morris, supervisor of social services. The women's section (in the jail) is a very tight knit community, housing 200 women inmates compared to the male population of 1,850.

According to Morris, the women are selected because they have demonstrated good behavior and in other instances those who rarely

receive visitors get the opportunity to receive a beautiful uplift.

While wielding her makeup brush, Riley engaged the remaining women in the audience in conversation asking them what would they like to do once leaving the facility?

"I want to be nurse," shouted one young lady from the rear.

"I've always wanted to open my own restaurant," said another.

"And what are you going to call it," responded Riley.

"Niecey's soulfood restaurant," she said. Riley then mapped out for the future entrepreneur what she needed to do to get her business up and running.

Meanwhile, Riley discovered a makeup artist amongst the group and invited Daliah Batista, 33, to be her guest makeup artist upon her next visit — November 10.

"Face 2 Face with Tamika Riley" proved to be everything she expected it to be — a day to make them smile plus a whole lot more.

Local artists showcase Imaging Aging at museum

NEWARK — On view in The Newark Museum Mutual Benefit Life Community Gallery until December 26, is an exhibition of works by five New Jersey artists that focus on the often difficult theme of parental aging and caretaking.

The exhibition, guest curated by participating artists Peppi Elena, whose studio is located in Clifton and Miriam Stern, who resides in Teaneck, is intended to raise awareness of the challenges faced by older people and to acknowledge the many different dimensions of and responses to the aging process. Organized and co-sponsored by the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Imaging/Aging particularly calls attention to the prevalence of this debilitating disease.

Also represented in the show are artists Penny Dell of Hawthorth, Frances Heinrich of Princeton and Susan Wilson of Morristown, who along with Elena and Stern, illustrate a wide diversity of experience with physical and emotional frailties. The artists use different visual means to express deep feelings of compassion, fear and love.

Painting, prints and sculpture tell the thought-provoking stories that emerge from witnessing the process of parental aging and caretaking. In their visions, each artist symbolically reaches back to those who have preceded and extends forward to communicate with those who will follow.

In sculptor Susan Wilson's installation, clay faces suspended from the ceiling look down at the viewer, while arms installed on the floor reach up. "My work is about making connections with people in my life and with parents, friends and mentors who are gone, obscured by the passing of years," states the artist. "These past presences are vague memories, yet they are very present in my art and in the way they have shaped my life."

Frances Heinrich finds inspiration in museified objects from past and present. More than the some of their parts, her installations bridge infancy to old age with the materials standing in for the human dramas that took place. Says Heinrich, "Cyclical rhythms exist everywhere around us. Change is an inexorable part of life; impermanence, death and loss its inevitable consequences. My work is concerned with frailty and vulnerability, aging and regeneration. It investigates profound connections between human and natural worlds and explores the mysteries and dimensions of mind, body and soul."

Elena's elegiac oil paintings are tributes to her mother, whom she nursed through many years of mental and physical deterioration. "Acutely aware that I am now the elder generation, I devise ways to transform my fears into long lasting visual statements," says Elena. Universalizing the particular anchors her paintings in the everyday, giving strength and conviction to her work and the exhibition.

An artist's reception for Imaging/Aging: Visual Responses to Growing Older was held for the artists last month.

Admission is free at The Newark Museum, located at 49 Washington Street in downtown Newark. Museum hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 12 noon to 5 p.m., with evening hours on Thursdays until 8:30 p.m.

Newark Museum hosts A taste of Newark

NEWARK — When Newark Museum President Arlene Lieberman got behind "A Taste of Newark," a culinary event to benefit the Link Community School, a line of sponsors quickly formed behind her. PNC Bank, Warner Lambert, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield,

Schiffenhaus Packaging Corporation, Anheuser-Busch, Western Industries, the Amelior Foundation, and the list goes on. Along with folks from in and out of town, all have heartily agreed to support this spirited and satiating celebration of Newark's many impressive

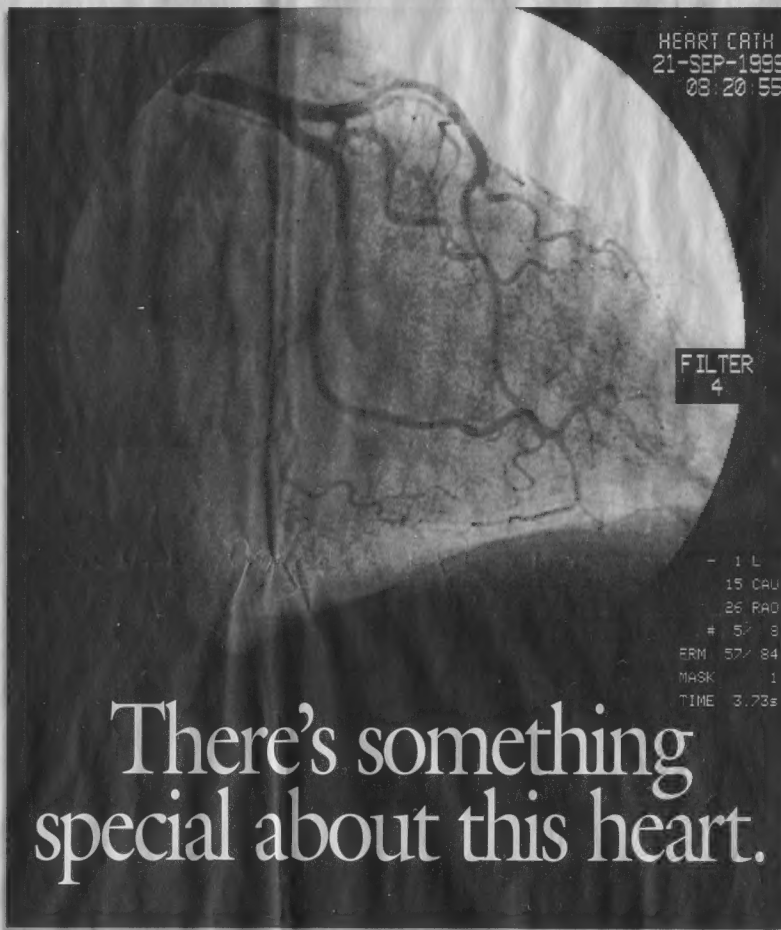
enteries, to take place Wednesday, November 3, at the Gateway Newark Hilton from 6-9 p.m.

"A Taste of Newark," in its second year, is a culinary frenzy whipped up by more than ten of Newark's newest and oldest dining hot spots.

In the spirit of community, the event) which includes a silent auction, raises funds for Newark's remarkable Link Community School, a "turning point" school for 125 7th and 8th graders. From the ashes of the riots in 1968, Link is celebrating its 30th anniversary, continuing

to be a vital force in the city of Newark. Remarkably, more than 90 percent of Link's alumni finish high school and more than 80 percent pursue college.

Eat to your heart's content, while investing in the future of Newark. Tickets? Call Link 642-5343.



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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for women who breastfeed 12:15 p.m. (732) 937-8820

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people living with cancer 7 p.m. (732) 937-7557

NEWARK — The City of Newark Department of Health and Human Services offers free flu and pneumonia shots at St. Mary's Villa 10 a.m. (973) 733-7581

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

NEWARK — The City of Newark Department of Health and Human Services offers free flu and pneumonia shots at St. Mary's Villa 10 a.m. (973) 733-7581

BELLE MEAD — The Camner Clinic hosts a seminar and video study of couples in treatment for mental health 1 p.m. (908) 281-1461

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who suffer from manic depression 7:30 a.m. (732) 937-8820

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts support group meeting for people with breast feed 3:30 p.m. (732) 745-8600

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people living with Hepatitis C 7:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820

NEWARK — The City of Newark Department of Health and Human Services offers free flu and pneumonia shots at Nelli Grant Senior Citizens 10 a.m. (973) 733-7581

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital offers a course in holiday eating for diabetic patients 10:30 a.m. (732) 828-3000

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for women with breast cancer 7 p.m. (732) 937-8820

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital offers a course in infant care 7:15 p.m. (732) 937-8820

TEANECK — JFK Medical Center offers a organization therapy program to assist students to become more effective learners. Call (201) 833-3186 for information

NEWARK — The City of Newark Department of Health and Human Services offers free flu and pneumonia shots at New Community Association Center 10 a.m. (973) 733-7581

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

EDISON — JFK Medical Center offers a class on infant care for adoptive parents 7 p.m. (732) 632-1530

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

EDISON — JFK Medical Center offers a course in infant care for adoptive parents 7 p.m. (732) 632-1530

NEWARK — The City of Newark Department of Health and Human Services offers free flu and pneumonia shots at New Community Association Center 10 a.m. (973) 733-7581

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center hosts a support group meeting for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients 6 p.m. (201) 915-2200

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

WHIPPANY — Columbus Hospital in Newark will host the "Swing Into 2000" gala and dinner party at the Birchwood Manor. The event will raise money for women's health services and pediatric program. Call (973) 288-1496 for more information

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital School of Nursing hosts an open house for new nurses 3:30 p.m. (201) 833-3186

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center hosts a support group meeting for breast cancer survivors 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

EDISON — JFK Medical Center offers a class in grandparenting for new grandparents 7 p.m. (732) 632-1530

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

EDISON — JFK Medical Center offers a course for parents thinking about adoption 7 p.m. (732) 632-1530

Sharing Network and local churches team up for 'Donor Sabbath' weekend

Helen Robbins tells how organ donation saved her life

SPRINGFIELD — Statistics have shown that African Americans have high blood pressure and kidney failure four times greater than Caucasians, as well as a higher rate of diabetes — medical factors that lead to the need for kidney transplantation. Subsequently, African Americans make up 30 percent of the dialysis patients in the country and 33 percent of the national waiting list.

On November 12-14, 1999, a number of houses of worship from the African American community and other minority communities, as well as the mainstream religious community, will take part in National Donor Sabbath weekend to increase awareness of this issue. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Division on Transplantation, the observance draws attention to the great need of the 69,000 people nationwide and 7,000 in New Jersey who are awaiting life-saving transplants.

Most major faiths support organ and tissue donation. With greater awareness of this crisis in minority communities — leading to increased organ donation rates — more lives could be saved each year.

A woman of great faith, Helen Robbins of Paterson has always been an active person. For years she worked long hours to help support her family and was very involved in her young daughters' lives. Helen was always found lending a hand at her church, or blessing someone else.

Her life drastically changed when her health began to fail



Picture here (l-r) Monique Greenwood, executive editor Essence Magazine, Dr. Dorian Wilson, Medical Director of The Sharing Network, Newark Mayor Sharpe James and organ donor recipient Helen Robbins

In 1987 at 41, Ms. Robbins was diagnosed with end-stage Renal Disease, also known as kidney failure. This once self-sufficient woman suddenly found herself dependent on other people and technology for her well being. Although this turn of events shook the foundations of her world, Helen remained steadfast and focused. Now she does everything she can to help others do the same.

After being diagnosed Ms. Robbins was on a dialysis machine for six years before she decided to register on the waiting list for a kidney transplant. Unfortunately, she didn't receive the kidney transplant until about five years later on April 16, 1998. Ms. Robbins says that waiting five years for an organ is not uncommon, especially for African Americans, due to a shortage of African American organ donors.

Helen stressed that had it not been for the "generosity of a total stranger," she would not be alive today. Because of this selfless act, Ms. Robbins is an organ donation advocate and an active volunteer for the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network (The Sharing Network).

These facts and her personal experience fuel Ms. Robbins' fire as she tirelessly preaches the value of organ donation throughout her many travels. It's her way of giving back

blessings. Most recently, Helen was found representing The Sharing Network at the Convoy of Hope event in Paterson, New Jersey. The Christian-oriented event included distribution of 35,000 pounds of free food, as well as free medical and dental screenings. Helen actively distributed organ donation cards and gave her personal insight as to why people should sign the cards.

Moreover, Robbins said that she believes events like the upcoming observance of National Donor Sabbath weekend (November 12-14) can help encourage greater organ donation rates among the churches and other houses of worship within minority communities. Barriers are there, but they can be overcome with thoughtful information.

Now that Helen has gone through the difficult process of waiting and healing, she continues to share her happiness and strength with others. She enjoys working with the elderly and encouraging them to remember the faith they were brought up on. She recently earned a home health aid certification so that she could take care of the elderly in their homes.

Helen says it makes her feel good if she goes somewhere and just helps one person see the way and sign a donor card. "I'm constantly trying to figure out more ways to get the message out. When I hear people say that it's against their religion, I'm quick to point out that all major religions endorse organ donation as an act of charity and great love."

We use friends and family members affected by the disorder as well as other interested members of the community to attend this important presentation. For more information call (908) 771-6735

November is Alzheimer's month, do observe it

Union County will observe National Alzheimer's Disease Month during November with a special presentation on November 4, at Runnels Specialized Hospital at 10 a.m., entitled "Alzheimer's Update for 2000" given by Helene Madnick, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

The disease is more common among the aged with approximately 10 percent of those over age 65 affected and as many as 17 percent of those over 85 years of age. It is the leading cause of death in the United States. Linda Stender, who joined in making the announcement, "In Union County alone, working with 1990 census figures, that means approximately 9,000 people over age 65 or, in the group over age 85, it translates to more than 3,000 residents of this county," according to Stender. These significant numbers tell us that, with the elderly representing an ever increasing percentage of our population, the care of people afflicted by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia needs to be a priority."

Ms. Madnick is an acknowledged expert in the field who will be discussing the latest on diagnosis and treatment of individuals with dementia," explained Freeholder Sautin. "She is the Clinical Supervisor for University Behavioral Health Care, Brief Treatment Services at Freehold, N.J., Geriatric Social Worker and is a past, in the COPSA Institute for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Helene works with individuals and families providing individual and case management services. Additionally, she is a professional and lay groups in the community and is an adjunct faculty member at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

We use friends and family members affected by the disorder as well as other interested members of the community to attend this important presentation. For more information call (908) 771-6735

Duress is a family matter with Alzheimer's



Florence Thomas is an Alzheimer's patient at Runnels

By Gilda Rogers Staff Writer

Approximately 4 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's Disease and while robbing the host patient of memory and cognitive abilities, it also is the fourth leading cause of death among adults.

In honor of those afflicted by this down spiraling, dark, debilitating disease and to raise awareness about this illness, a candlelight vigil will be held on November 4 at Trenton at the State House, starting at 4 p.m.

Runnels Specialized Hospital located in Berkley Heights is home to 98-year-old Florence A. Thomas, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. However, before relocating there, in spite of her illness, she was cared for at home by her daughter Yvonne Thomas, a resident of Plainfield.

"I first noticed something was wrong with mom when she started to forget things she was out in the blazing sun with no hat on," said the younger Thomas. She started to be a little forgetful, and then at times she would just go blank.

Caring for her mother, who retreated from the world of familiar took its toll on Thomas.

"The at home caregivers are the ones suffering the most because they get the least amount of help," said Thomas, who is a licensed practical nurse and certified massage therapist. She now conducts stress management seminars for those who are trying to cope with unbearable pressure.

"When things got really bad, I had a hard time coping emotionally and physically," said Thomas. "I want them to know when they (caregivers) reach the end of their rope what they can do."

For Thomas in regard to her

mother, she sought out a facility that would provide her mother with a safe and loving environment, which she found at Runnels. "Now I can get my life back together."

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Donell Jones finds "where he wants to be" on sophomore album



Donell Jones
Where I Want To Be
(LaFace Records)

This modern day Renaissance man (as displayed through his skills as a singer, producer, songwriter) has quietly, but surely made his way and found his niche in the rising male vocalist genre with his new album, "Where I Want To Be."

This album is a double-threat that provides a mellow mood listeners can chill to and at the same time can bump in the jeeps to while riding down the street. The album is most characterized by the introspective songs about love and relationships, something different from the repeated big baller image that young men artists are trying to aspire to. Also adding to the album's flavor is the range of music, going from a guitar-strung melody on his song "Shorty," in which he sings about a woman he spots who is peeping him and he's peeping back, to "You Know

What's Up," which provides a melodic chorus about a mutual attraction between him and another woman.

Jones also delves into the depth of tender ballads, like "Where I Want To Be," in which he sings about wanting to break camp from a relationship after discovering his strong urge to explore the bachelor life, and "I Wanna Luv U," in which he sings about a newfound joy in a new attraction.

But he doesn't finish the album without completely entering the hip-hop realm on "U Know What's Up (Remix)" featuring Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes from TLC, and the song "When I Was Down," and track sampled from the hit "Freddie's Dead" by Curtis Mayfield. Overall, Jones creates a musical selection that expands the musical spectrum, from hip hop and R&B, and does it without losing the style that sets him apart from other artists.

The Miami Sound-off

Miami native and Atlantic Records R&B singer J-Shin could be the start of his town's influence on R&B music and talent from that area

By Robert E. Williams III
Staff Writer

In a time when people think everything has been said and done, few music artists have the opportunity to be trailblazers in their field.

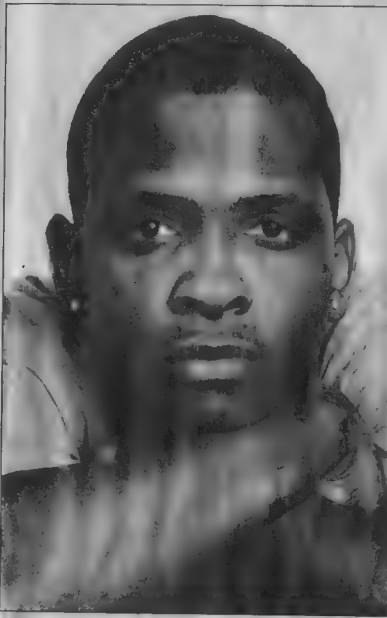
Meet R&B artist J-Shin.

With J-Shin rises his career, two musical sound gardens look to him to make way for them. First, there are his labels, Slupe-N-Slide Records, an imprint of Atlantic Records. Slupe-N-Slide, like any other budding label, looks to him to be what Aaliyah is to Blackground Entertainment, another Atlantic Records imprint. But once Willie Smith, vice-president of Atlantic Records urban music marketing, and the label heard J-Shin, they looked to him to boost their male vocalist void, in which they have no stars on the label to match the success of its female counterparts, Brandy and Aaliyah.

"Atlantic is pretty short on R&B male artists, and he can help put us back in the thick of things," said Smith in an interview with Billboard Magazine. "J-Shin is our Keith Sweat. We're also getting feedback that he sounds vocally like a young R. Kelly or Aaron Hall."

The other hopes is that J-Shin will unleash the other R&B talent from the Miami sound, which have already had successful artists in Latin music, pop, hip, and rap.

"Being from Miami, I wanted to go in a different direction," said the 22-year-old



J-Shin

Photo courtesy of Atlantic Records

Miami native.

And the direction J-Shin has been in is a rising one. J-Shin started entertaining audiences when he was in sixth grade, singing the famous charity song "We Are The World." Listening to musical influences like gospel singer John P. Kee, Aaron Hall, R. Kelly, 69 Boyz, and Boyz II Men, his interest in creating music grew and he eventually pursued a career at Yuba College in California. He majored in music production engineering and later found a job working for an independent label, and began to sing on the local circuit of nightclubs back in Florida.

His big break came when he was asked by Slupe-N-Slide producer Funk Boogie to write and sing a chorus for a Trick Daddy song. And as they say, the rest is history.

Now J-Shin, who was signed to the label earlier this year, is gearing up for the promotion of his new album, "My Soul, My Life," which is scheduled to be released this month, and features artists like LaTocha Scott (formerly of Xscape) and Trick Daddy.

The single, "One Night Stand," is already in radio and video play rotation in the media. Keeping true to going in that different direction, the song is an intriguing look at the consequences that happens after a one night stand, something not many artists take a look at these days. Representative of his whole album, he explores various types of relationships and situations that makes J-Shin more than just another R&B crooner.

Music Notes

WNBA Releases album to benefit breast cancer fight

The Women's National Basketball Association released a 14-song compilation album on NBA Entertainment and SFX Alphabet City Sports Records, with proceeds from sales of the CD going to the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO). The album will feature songs from Vanessa Williams, Monica, Tatyana Ali, Queen Latifah, and Aretha Franklin.

Lauryl Hill set to star in romance flick

Lauryl Hill is pondering whether she will produce an upcoming movie she has agreed to star in. Hill will play the female romantic lead role in "Sauce," a movie about a man and woman who are members of rival families who own barbecue companies and become involved with each other while learning their trade.

The movie will be produced by New Line Cinema, and Hill's company, Black Mar! Films, with shooting expected to begin early next year. Hill will also be featured on a holiday Christmas album produced and starring Rosie O'Donnell.

O'Donnell, who gained a record deal after singing on the "Tarzan," is set to release her album, "A Rosie Christmas," which will be made of mainly duets.

Hill, will sing "Little Drummer Boy," and other artists joining O'Donnell and her are 98 Degrees, Natalie Cole, Ringo Starr, Celine Dion, Cher, Elton John, Sesame Street's Elmo, and N Sync to name a few. Revenue from the album will go to the "For All Kids Foundation," O'Donnell's charity which awards grants to non-profit organizations that support children with child care, medical, educa-

tional, and housing programs. The album is due in stores Nov. 2.

Mary J. Blige will be featured on two live albums this holiday season

Mary J. Blige will be featured on two live albums set to be released this season.

The first will be the "A Very Special Christmas 4: Live From Washington D.C." album, in which Blige sings a duet with Sheryl Crow on "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree", and collaborates with Jon Bon Jovi, Tracy Chapman, Eric Clapton, and Crow on the song, "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town."

Blige will also be featured on the VH1 Divas Live 99 album, the concert that aired earlier this year in May. Blige performed "Ain't No Way" with Whitney Houston and joined Houston, Chaka Khan, Faith Hill, and LeAnn Rimes a la Motown Live style on the song "I'm Every Woman." The album will be in stores Nov. 2.

T-Boz set to work on cartoon project, new poetry book

Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins of TLC is getting ready for the release of her book of poems, Thoughts, which will be on bookshelves on November 3.

Watkins is also in development on a cartoon project she first started thinking about five years ago. The cartoon, which she plans to call "It's A Fly World," is in plans with animator Tracy Trent and The Jim Henson Company, and is being shipped to various networks.

In Your Ear

By Robert E. Williams III

The gospel of Hip Hop

Hip-hop in this decade has had a tremendous influence on everything. From the way white boys dress to the way we view relationships in our society, it can be seen everywhere.

And one place it is showing up is gospel music. The most popular of these changes can be seen in artists like Kirk Franklin and The Winans Phase 2 (both of whom were produced by such hip-hop artists as Rodney Jerkins, who produced Brandy and Monie's "The Boy Is Mine" track). And with the changes in gospel music, the audience listening is also changing. It can't be denied that those who are drawn to the likes of Puff Daddy and other hip-hop acts will be attracted to the new wave of gospel as well. And this is exactly what is happening.

But with this wave, comes a parting between the sea of devoted gospel music fans. The parting is the conflict between those who are devoted to the traditional style of gospel, with the likes of Mahalia Jackson and Shirley Caesar, and those who are embracing this new style of music. Those who are devoted to traditional music look to that as the true gospel music, and do not welcome the change in contemporary gospel because they feel it does not fit in line with the traditional teaching of Christianity.

Others are happy about the music which appeals to listeners who would not ordinarily listen to gospel music. They feel that even if it has the hip-hop edge to it, the main message, which is finding yourself in God, will ultimately make an overall and have a positive influence.

Whatever the situation may be, music devoted to God, regardless what form, can have nothing but a positive effect on our culture.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

NEW BRUNSWICK — The George Street Playhouse presents the play "Do I Hear A Waltz?" Call (973) 593-0189 for information.

LONG ISLAND, NY — The Westbury Music Fair presents R&B legend Luther Vandross through November 6. Call (212) 307-1717 for information.

MAHWAH — Ramapo College presents singer/guitarist Dan Bern at the Angelica and Russ Saxe Center for Performing and Visual Arts, located on the campus. 8 p.m. (201) 654-7602.

HEMPSTEAD, NY — Hofstra University's Department of Drama and Dance presents the play "The Boys of Syracuse" at the school's John Crawford Adams Playhouse. Call (516) 463-6644 for information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. 8 p.m. (732) 246-7459.

HEMPSTEAD, NY — Hofstra University's Department of Drama and Dance presents the play "The Boys From Syracuse" at the school's John Crawford Adams Playhouse through November 5. 8 p.m. (516) 463-6618.

NEW YORK — The Morganthal-Fredricks Officals & Accessories in SoHo presents the works of Japanese photographer Katsunori Onuma. Call (212) 226-5577 for information.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

NEWARK — The African Globe Entertainment and R&B Promotions presents "Akapalooza Concert Tour" at Newark Symphony Hall's Terrace Ballroom. 8 p.m. (973) 643-8009.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

NEWARK — The African Globe-Sankofa Dance Theater presents "African Dance Celebration" at Newark Symphony Hall's African Globe Theater. 8 p.m. (973) 624-1594.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents the musical "Pinnocchio" through Nov. 7. 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. (1-888) GO-NJ-PAC.

METUCHEN — The Forum Theater Company hosts an event strictly for kids entitled "Circus Miramax." 11 a.m. (732) 548-4670.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Rutgers Theater company presents Harold Pinter's "Betrayal" at The New Theater. 8 p.m. (732) 932-7511.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University (NJCU) presents soprano singer Janelle Gorme and pianist Justine Okeny-Schubert at the school's Inglett Recital Hall. 3 p.m. (201) 200-5425.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

NEW YORK — Madison Square Garden presents The Eurythmics. Call (212) 307-4711 for information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents The Flying Karamazov Brothers through Nov. 14. 7:30 p.m. (1-888) GO-NJ-PAC.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

HEMPSTEAD, NY — The Hofstra University's Department of Drama and Dance presents The Fall Dance Concert. 8 p.m. (516) 463-6644.

WATCHUNG — The Watchung Arts Center presents singer Pam Parris. 8 p.m. (908) 793-0190.

NEWARK — Gloria Wilentz presents the "Living Proof Tour" starring Fred Hammond, Take 8, and Yolanda Adams at Newark Symphony Hall. 8 p.m. (201) 507-8900 or (973) 643-8009.

CAPE MAY — The 12th Annual Cape May Jazz Festival returns to several sites in and around Cape May through Nov. 14. Call (609) 896-7277 for time and information.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

NEW YORK — Veteran actor Keith David performs at the Hotel Delmonico's D. Lounge. 9 p.m. (212) 333-7400.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents The Flying Karamazov Brothers, Sleazebats, Flies and Accidents. 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (1-888) GO-NJ-PAC.

METUCHEN — The Forum Theater Company presents the kids play "Miracle the Poon Christmas." 11 a.m. (732) 548-4670.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

NEWARK — The African Globe Theater's presents August Wilson's "Fences" at Newark's Symphony Hall. Call (973) 643-1554.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents All Stars Jazz Concert. 7 p.m. (1-888) GO-NJ-PAC.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents Reginald K. Long. 8 p.m. (1-888) GO-NJ-PAC.

NEWARK — The Hispanic American Community of Commerce of Essex County presents "Celebrando: A Reunion Cante Dance." The dance celebrates the pride of third generation Hispanics at Newark Symphony Hall. 8 p.m. (973) 485-5441.

Taye Diggs proves to be "The Best Man" for the job in new flick

By Marie Moore

(NPPA) — It was in "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" that audiences got a glimpse of the talented and extremely handsome Taye Diggs. Soon after, Diggs not only captured the hearts of women everywhere, but the scripts began to roll in from interested directors.

Currently, he is co-starring with Morris Chestnut in Malcolm Lee's "The Best Man." Diggs said he is proud of his cinematic accomplishments — which include "Stella," "The Wood" and "Go," but he is particularly excited about this most recent film.

"I was immediately drawn to it," Diggs said of the script. "I knew the movie would be great from the writing, but I had no idea it would look so classy. I really think this film has the potential to change some things. I don't think there's a film out there done with a predominately African-American cast that has such crossover appeal not relating to its star power. It has a potential to help with racial barriers...as trite as it sounds," he said.

In "The Best Man," Diggs plays Harper Stewart, who wonders if he selected the right mate. The question is compounded when he and his former love are reunited at a wedding. I asked Diggs if he was ever faced with the question.

"Was she the one who got away?" "I think everything happens for a reason. So, I don't consider it this one or those



Harper Stewart (Taye Diggs) tells girlfriend Robin (Sanaa Lathan) some good news in "The Best Man."

Photo by Michael Ginsberg

ones as those that got away, although it's wonderful sometimes in privacy (of one's mind) to wonder what would've happened," he said.

"But, I think you can get into trouble if you start digsin' up the past. You know what I'm sayin'."

Despite having attained a level of

success that has sent a lot of scripts his way, Diggs said he still has a long road ahead. "I haven't reached a point, really, of a Denzel [Washington]—maybe he struggles every once in a while. And, Will Smith, he's pretty much on top of the world. Needless to say, they only let a few of us in at a time."

Diggs can also be seen later this year in Robert Zemeckis' "House on Haunted Hill," which he said has a very interesting ending.

Baraka helps us remember "WeSelves"

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

The best way many remember and learn about history is to see it in action.

How many people remember where they were when John F. Kennedy was shot? Or when Louis Farrakhan spoke before a million black men? Or Philadelphia hosted the gathering of a million black women?

The same feelings and emotions that many felt during those times were aroused as many sat for the premiere performance of Amiri Baraka's latest play, "Remembering Wesel's Black Renaissance in Harlem."

"Remembering Wesel's" is a prolific artistic anthology of the history and movement of the Harlem Renaissance, sparking thought provoking issues associated with black America's most famous literary movement.

The play is a chronology of the period, year-by-year, in which race cuts summarize historic events and reacted by seven figures that change during the time period. Between each year, the seven cast members portray different actors in the Harlem Renaissance, from W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Wallace Thurman, Jean Toomer, Countee Cullen, and others from the time period.

The actors (Elizabeth Van Dyke, Jerome Prentiss Bates, Tavis, D.K. Dyer, Joseph Edwards, Harold Pierson and Beverly Prentiss) speak proudly, sing loudly, and dance elegantly loving in sync with the styles of the times and the attitudes of



Photo courtesy of NJPAC

Amiri Baraka

the three they portray.

Adding to the play are various issues that surround the play, such as the question of whether black America during that time really embraced the movement as their own, or was it really something for just white people? Is it to reason the answer can be found in those prolific voices that simply seemed to fade away?

Another question the audi-

ence will be left to figure out for themselves is, "Where was Richard Wright?"

Again, Baraka has written another thought provoking piece, which is produced by the National Black Touring Circuit. Adding to the ever evolving "Newark Renaissance," this play will truly provoke you to remember yourself.

And the reality of lost

On The Reel

by Robert E. Williams III

Some things never change.

Recently, a movie critic for Variety.com wrote a review of the Malcolm D. Lee movie, "The Best Man," in which he stated that the movie

"should play well with black viewers" but will have to face "the challenge of generating crossover appeal for a story that has no white characters."

How does the saying go? If it ain't white, it ain't right?

It is a shame that in the times when race relations are supposed to be more advanced and developed, we as a country and blacks as a culture must re-evaluate the aforementioned concept that for something to appeal to many people, it must be associated in some way with somebody white.

Lee wrote a good script that includes emotions on every level — friendship, love, betrayal, trust, and forgiveness — something every human experiences. Also, Lee's training as an apprentice to Spike Lee at New York University Film School training, and his experience on an apprentice at Disney Films shows through in his well-directed cinematography.

However, all of this is not even mentioned or thought of when the reviewer begins his article. He began his first paragraph by describing the film as "well-mounted and engaging,"



Taye Diggs and Morris Chestnut

Photo by David Lee

and called it "Lee's impressive feature" and "an honorable addition to the reunion genre," which he cites the movie "The Big Chill" as a comparison to this one. But despite all of this, the fact that black people are in the film appeared to tant his opinion that white people would find this movie appealing, and mentioned that "Waiting to Exhale" was an "exception" to this concept.

And there you have the success of black cinema, through the words of a non-black critic. That regardless of how good a black film is, the success of it appealing

to white folks rest not on the shoulders of the director, producer, screenwriters or actors, but on those of the casting director. In other words, to all black filmmakers, if your picture does not have a white actor in it, then regardless how good it is, its chances of appealing to anyone who can relate to emotions are thin.

What white Hollywood must realize (and the critics of it) is that "Waiting to Exhale" was a black movie that transcended race on all levels. Many people (white or black) can relate to single motherhood, the search for true love, to the excitement of finding one, and the reality of lost love. And that this movie was not an exception, but an example of many black films that whites refuse to acknowledge as good because there are no white actors in them. To add to how good this movie is, it became the first in recent memory to top the American box office, pulling in \$8 million in its opening weekend.

What this all boils down to is this: there is still a stigma within cinema overall against black filmmakers and actors. When a critic feels that a movie will not do as well as it has the potential because of the absence of a white actor, it shows exactly how far black Hollywood has come, and how far it has to go.

A Huey P. Newton Story



Roger Guenver Smith will start in the intriguing monologue, "A Huey P. Newton Story," at 6:15 ARTS Friday, November 5 at 8 p.m., and Saturday, November 6, 8 p.m. at BAM Harvey Theater (former Majestic Theater) at 651 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY. For tickets call (718) 636-4100.

"The Bone Collector" joins 'SILENCE OF THE LAMBS' AND 'SEVEN' as one of the great thrillers of the decade."

Mike O'Connell, ABC

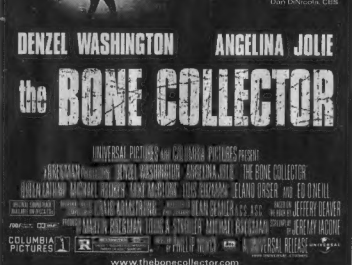
"SPINE-TINGLING!"
Awesome! Startling surprises!
JENNIFER WOLF, JEANNE WOLF'S HOLLYWOOD

"BRILLIANT!"
Denzel Washington chills up a brilliant performance."
Bobbie Wypych, NBC

"BREATH-TAKING!"
Thrills, spine-tingling chills!
Kyle O'Connell, NEWS CHANNEL 8

"COMPELLING!"
"Angelina Jolie is brilliant, a compelling character."
Steve O'Connell, WOFL

"CHILLING!"
"A chilling jump-out-of-your-seat thriller."
Dawn Duggan, CBS



OPENS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5th
IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE

Celebration of black New Yorkers' history opens at Schomburg Center

A major exhibition on "Black New Yorkers/Black New York: 400 Years of African-American History" opens on October 22 at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. A survey of the African presence in and its impact on New York City since its founding in 1625, this chronicles the historical and cultural development of the 2.3 million people of African descent who currently reside in the city — the largest black urban population in the nation.

The show will remain on view at the Schomburg Center, a New York Public Library division located at 515 Malcolm X Blvd. in Harlem, through March 2000. There is no admission charge. A 460-page hardcover book (\$40) based on the exhibit is available in the store at the Schomburg Center.

"Black New Yorkers/Black New York" is part of a 2-year, citywide project organized by the Schomburg Center. Conceived as a part of the centennial celebration commemorating the merger of the five boroughs into Greater New York in 1898, the exhibit is also an attempt to focus public attention on the role of black New Yorkers in the making of New York.

New York City has been home to African Americans for four centuries. They were among the founding fathers and mothers of pioneer settlements and have remained integral players in the teasing daily drama of the city. Their music, art and culture, political and social contributions, their work in business and government and educational and community organizations are deeply intertwined with the dynamic multicultural fabric of life in America's greatest metropolis.

"Black New Yorkers/Black New York" is the center's New York City Centennial tribute to people of African descent — diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, economic and political backgrounds — who have helped make New York America's greatest city," said Schomburg Center Director Howard Dodson. "The documents used to tell this story reveal the extraordinary ways in which black New Yorkers have been actively involved in all spheres of human endeavor in New York and around the world."

More than 400 items — photographs, artworks, documents and artifacts drawn mostly from the Schomburg's own collections — recreate the unique relationship between a people and a city. Thus is chronicles the worldwide African-American struggle for freedom and dignity.

The exhibition provides details about some diverse topics:

"Business and labor" — From free fur traders and enslaved workers who built houses, roads and bridges, to the rise of small businesses and the real estate boom in Harlem, to the ascent of entrepreneurs and corporate titans such as Ed Lewis, Earl G. Graves and Kenneth I. Chenault.

"Politics" — From the laws that whittled away black freedoms in colonial times to the Civil Rights victories of the present era, from Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth to Marcus Garvey and Malcolm X.

"Religion and society" — From Mother AME Zion Church and the Pioneering African Free School to T. Thomas Fortune's groundbreaking newspaper, "New York Freeman, from incandescent carbon filament inventor Lewis Latimer to the Bermuda Benevolent Society.

"The arts" — From 19th Century Shakespearean actor Ira Aldridge and celebrated soprano Sissieretta Jones, to Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston of the Harlem Renaissance, as well as Paul Robeson, Lena Horne, Alvin Ailey, Spike Lee LL Cool J.

"Sports" — from jockey Isaac Murphy, cycling champ Marshall "Major" Taylor, and baseball legend John Henry "Pop" Lloyd — perhaps the greatest player — to Althea Gibson, Jackie Robinson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Resonating with tales of trial, courage and triumph, vibrant with portraits of both famous and humble history-makers, this is a sweeping, powerful record of the richly diverse heritage of African Americans in the capital of Black America.



Left: Easter Sunday in Harlem, ca. 1941.



Guadeloupean women at Ellis Island, 1911.



A woman doctor making house calls, 138th Street and 7th Avenue, 1939.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hicks, ca. 1900.

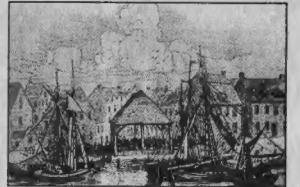
All photos courtesy of The Schomburg Center, New York.



Brooklyn School desegregation demonstrations, ca. 1959.



Machito and Graciela at the Savoy Ballroom.



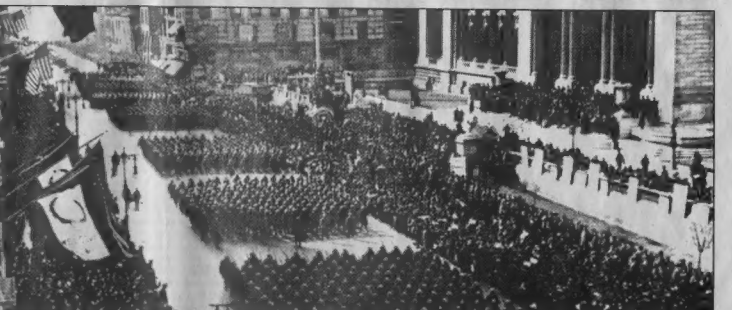
Above: The Wall Street slave market opened on the East River pier in 1711. Portrait by an unknown 18th century artist.

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— Schomburg Center Director Howard Dodson



Left: The Harlem Hellfighters march up Fifth Avenue at the end of World War I. Members of the 369th Regiment march home after serving 191 days in combat, longer than any other unit in the armed forces. February 19, 1919.

Trailblazers will be the team to beat this year

With the start of a new NBA season just underway, it looks like there is once again no clear favorite to win the NBA title.

Sure the Spurs are back again and feature Tim Duncan who is the league's best player. But don't discount the rest of the league. The last of Sean Elliott underwent a kidney transplant this past summer.

Last year, Elliott came up big for the Spurs for most of the playoffs and surely his leadership and versatility will be missed. On the other hand, the Portland Trailblazers added two of the most versatile players in the NBA by signing Scottie Pippen and trading for Steve Smith. The Blazers have a stockpile of talent which is the envy of the NBA. Unlike the Lakers, they are experienced, complement each other well, and now have a player with championship experience in Pippen. That's why the are my pick to win it all in June.

As for the Knicks, there chances to win a title will hinge on whether Allan Houston can play this season like he finished last year. Houston can do it all—hand, defend, stroke it, and penetrate. Hopefully, he will understand this and step up and carry the Knicks on a consistent basis.

Spree? What can you say. The guy is one of the most exciting players in the league. But he can also be one of the wildest and unpredictable. I call him the polar man because he's a walking contradiction, an embodiment of opposite extremes. He's a guy you either love or hate. He's either on fire or off. He's incredibly thoughtful and articulate and intelligent, but hasn't fully grasped the nuances of using a real phone. In short, he is the ultimate wild card to whom the Knicks fortunes are inextricably tied.

Now the Nets. Hopefully, they can overcome the injury bug which has decimated this team over the past few years. Are they a playoff team? Perhaps. But I'm not convinced that these guys really know how to play together, yet. Time will tell the story whether or not head coach Don Casey is the long term answer to the team's chemistry woes. If Jayson Williams is ready by January in reasonably good form, expect the Nets to snare a 7th or 8th seed and hover around 500 thou of the year.

Here are a few other NBA predictions:

First Team ALL-NBA

- Allen Iverson, Philadelphia 76ers
- Tim Duncan, San Antonio Spurs
- Kevin Garnett, Minnesota Timberwolves
- Jason Kidd, Phoenix Suns
- Grant Hill, Detroit Pistons

Rookie of the Year

Lamar Odom, LA Clippers

Surprise

Wally Szczerbak, Minnesota Timberwolves

Most Improved Players

Tracey McGrady, Toronto Raptors

Antawn Jamison, Golden State Warriors

Until next week, enjoy.

Look for City News 100 Most Influential April 27, 2000 at NJPAC

Nets and 'Newark Do Something' spruce up community playground

By Jean H. Pierre

NEWARK — To several basketball fans and pundits the New Jersey Nets are without a doubt the team of the future. When it comes to community involvement and interaction they're at the top of their game. And it showed last week, when members of the team joined the youth of 'Newark's Do Something' from Arts High School to clean up Jesse Allen Park.

The event brought together the students, volunteers from Jersey Cares and likes of Jayson Williams, Keith Van Horn and Stephen Marbury to interact and get dirty in preserving the look and condition of the park.

"We want to continue the momentum in keeping the parks in the Newark area better," said Kristi Izzo, Executive Director of Jersey Cares, which promotes the ethic of community service among citizens and positive change through volunteering.

The players and volunteers painted over graffiti and removed debris off the court to ensure its playing shape. Nets President Michael Rowe feels its

not all about basketball.

"This is a visible example what we do as a team. We don't just play basketball, collect salaries, sell tickets," said Rowe. "We work in the parks, schools, city hall and construction areas because we want to fix up life in the area and bring back the forgotten location. This is an example of staying straight and respecting what's around you."

The project is part of NBA TeamUp Week, a league wide celebration of community service involving hundreds of NBA players and staff and thousands of students. Since its inception in 1996, NBA TeamUp program has engaged more than 100,000 students in volunteer projects and has rewarded more than 40,000 young people for their outstanding dedication to service. Eighth grade Shakria Jones will remember this day for years to come.

"It's nice to see somebody cares about our park and the look of it," said Jones, who lives a block away from the facility. "One day I hope young people like me take the same steps in keeping it that way."

The 1999-2000 New Jersey Nets Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TV
Nov 3	Indiana	AT Vancouver
3	AT Cleveland	AT LA, Clips, Atlanta
5	Toronto	AT Boston
7	Washington	4 Golden State
10	Phoenix	8 Boston
12	AT Charlotte	9 AT Philly
15	Seattle	15 AT Atlanta
17	AT Detroit	18 Miami
19	AT Boston	20 AT Minnesota
20	Philadelphia	22 LA Lakers
23	AT Sacramento	23 AT Miami
24	AT Golden St.	24 Charlotte
26	AT LA Lakers	28 AT Utah
27	AT Phoenix	Mar. 1 AT Denver
30	Washington	2 AT Dallas
Dec. 2	San Antonio	3 AT Houston
4	New York	6 AT San Antonio
6	Sacramento	8 Portland
8	Milwaukee	10 AT Milwaukee
10	AT Chicago	12 Orlando
11	Houston	18 Milwaukee
18	Cleveland	19 Utah
15	AT Washington	21 AT Toronto
16	AT Cleveland	22 AT Charlotte
19	Atlanta	24 Minnesota
21	AT Toronto	26 Denver
23	Philadelphia	28 Indiana
26	Chicago	30 Toronto
28	New York	31 AT Orlando
30	Orlando	Apr. 2 Detroit
Jan. 4	AT Indiana	5 AT Washington
5	Vancouver	6 AT Indiana
8	Miami	7 Miami
10	Orlando	8 AT Milwaukee
13	LA Clippers	AT Chicago
17	AT Philly	12 AT New York
19	AT New York	14 Orlando
20	Detroit	18 AT Atlanta
22	Dallas	19 Cleveland
26	AT Portland	
24	AT Seattle	

For ticket information contact the Nets at (201) 935-8888



Nets guards Stephen Marbury (top) and Kendall Gill give the park a new look with their touches of paint to the walls and steps of the park. At the bottom, Nets President Michael Rowe (left) talks with business consultant Gus Henningburg.



Nets guard Sherman Douglas (left) gives forward Keith Van Horn a hand in painting over the graffiti. At the bottom, kids scurry around the park to get autographs and glimpses of the players.

Barkley to retire at end of the season

By John Zener

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Charles Barkley would like to be a movie star, make nine figures a year with his new medical supply company, buy an NBA team — and a plane. Plus, he'd like to become Alabama's governor and beat Michael Jordan in golf someday — not necessarily in that order.

"It's good to have choices," Barkley said. "I don't really want to work this hard after I retire." Barkley, 36, announced that this would be his final NBA season at a halftime ceremony during the Houston Rockets' 98-99 exhibition

victory over the Detroit Pistons on last week. Barkley chose the venue to make his announcement because it's a short drive from his hometown of Leeds.

With his trademark flare, he also took the opportunity to give away \$3 million of his hard-earned money, about a third of his salary this season. Barkley announced he would give \$1 million each to alma maters Leeds High School and Auburn University and to a program for inner-city Birmingham youth called Cornerstone Schools.

"I don't think God gave me this gift so I could play basketball and have \$50 million in the bank

and live happily ever after," Barkley said. "I don't think that's what my life is for."

He was joined at center court by his mother, Charney Glenn, and grandfather, Johnnie Mae Mickens, who raised him together. He also showed he isn't done with basketball, notching 13 points, nine rebounds and nine assists.

"It's time for me to do something else," said Barkley, who consulted such luminaries as Jordan, golfer Tiger Woods and Hall of Famer Jimmy Erving about his decision. "It's time for me to have some fun now. I don't think my life could get any better. But it's time to do something else."

Marty Mar's Sports Drum: One Brother's NBA Pre-Season Awards

By Martin C. Summers

For two long decades, the NBA was ruled by a galaxy of stars. Only the chosen few seemed destined to puff on cigars and sip on champagne. The last anointed one was (M.J.) finally left the room. Yet, the game continues to rise. This is the Post-Lockout era. A time and a place depicted in a sci-fi flick where the planet goes through a melt down and leaves an underground civilization. An unruly, chaotic environment where almost any faction can gain control. A league where championship rings are up for grabs.

Set in the future but the past keeps creeping up from behind. Although the game can be witnessed nightly, the esoteric appeal of uncertainty has distanced the new jacks/johnny-cometelers, the ones who didn't lose the game pre-prime time, a time and a place when the hard-core watched the revolution in the midnight zone on tape delay.

Back to the Roots. No politicking. Not even for ball players from New York City. A'ight.

G. Allen Iverson — Locked up the scoring title on the campaign's last battlefront with 33 points and broke ankles all year long with a crossover as sweet as ghetto food aid.

C. Alonzo Mourning — Zo, the ultimate throwback, the missing link from Unsub and Rasta. He. Ruled the roost on the defensive end like a center should.

R. Karl Malone — Unstoppable at times with his soft jump and placed him third in the league at scoring with 23.8 ppg.

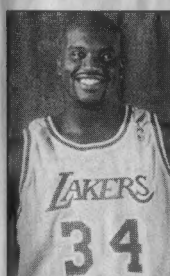
P. Tim Duncan — Led the league in double doubles and ranked in the top 10 in scoring, field goal percentage, rebounds, minutes and block shots.

All Semi-Quintessence
G. Jason Kidd — Messed around all year and led the league in triple dunks.

G. Stephen Marbury — Proved that you can almost go home and bring the Nets back to respectability during his watch. Finished with a 41 point, 11 assist outburst.

C. Shaquille O'Neal — Shaq, determined to wrap up home court advantage in first round playoff series rather than score 40 in season for the win, showed he might be ready to lead Inglewood Swingin' to a title.

R. Chris Webber — What Wazup With Washington, Ward's Was. When Weber Was Waived. Actually traded, but say it fast five



Shaquille O'Neal earns a spot on the Semi Quintessence team times anyway. Wes Unseld, so highly spoken of above, let go C. Web who spun for 20 ppg and led league in boards with 13.0 per game.

F. Grant Hill — Led his team in scoring, rebounds and assists. Ocasalish, Wilksh, Kookicsh...forget that last one...to be played with Jerry's kids.

All Lock-Down
G. Eddie Jones — Was it a coincidence that the Lakers defense got religious (holy) after EJ was traded. Second in league in steals at 2.5 per game. Only man alive that I've

seen stay with Iverson off the dribble.

G. Tariq Abdul-Wahad — Alphabetically, the first name in NBA directory, but the first name means "morning star." Can check any two guard straight up, even Kobe, which means steak.

C. Alonzo Mourning — See above.

F. Theo Ratliff — Third in the league with almost 3 blocks per game and only forward among top nine in that category. Many times, Theo aborted shots at their inception or just caught the ball out of the air.

F. George Lynch — Another Sixer you say. Yeah, and guard Eric Snow deserved consideration as well. But I chose the Lynx Pin over a Blanket of Snow.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

The Out Da Box Award — In modern and hip-top philosophy, the one who from jump is acknowledged as legit, comes out blazin' distinguished from coming in luke.

Vince Carter — To borrow a term usually reserved for goal tenders but fitting for the player that turned heads in a hockey town, Vince Carter played on his head. Turned in the dunk of the year when he elevated over Dikembe Mutombo...suspended his body "copter style"...then gave the finger wagger a jock full of nuts. Led all rookies with an 18.3 ppg scoring average and pushed the Raptors away from extinction.

*Mentions

Paul Pierce — Came out hot until injuries slowed him down. Second in scoring among, as Clyde would provide, the neophytes with a 16.5 ppg and ranked high in many other categories among rookies such as boards, thefts and three point percentage.

Vanilla, Led rookies in steals and was second among rookies in assists. An apparition of Pistol Pete.

Giggy Award — Not Jiggy. Giggy. Roo to all the Que Pasa as this award is in honor of my (one brother) whose monies named him Giggy and since he was lunk #6, he became known as sixth man.

Jalen Rose — A true sixth man only is the first player off the bench but he finishes the game on the floor. Rose blossomed in this role, he averaged 11.1 ppg but also averaged 13.8 points and 6.7 assists per game.

*Mentions
Darrell Armstrong — Cracked up on coffee, he played so well that he actually started 16 games and averaged 13.8 points and 6.7 assists per game.
Rashied Wallace — Sheed, formerly one of the Trail nuts out in Portland matured into his role to lead the best second string team in the league.